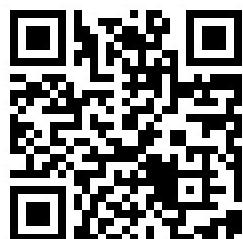


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1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND  
HIGHLANDERS

I. Army, British — Regt. hist. — Princess Louise's  
(Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders)

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H I S T O R Y  
OF THE  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Princess Louise's  
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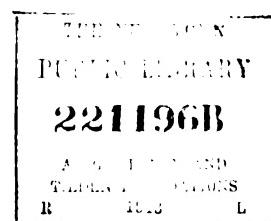
*COMPILED FROM THE REGIMENTAL RECORDS AND OTHER AUTHORITIES*

BY  
LIEUT.-COL. H. G. ROBLEY & P. J. AUBIN.

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CAPE TOWN:  
MURRAY & ST. LEGER, PRINTERS, ST. GEORGE'S STREET.  
1883.

ENLB



MURRAY AND ST. LEGER,  
PRINTERS,  
ST. GEORGE'S STREET, CAPE TOWN.

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# HISTORY OF THE 91st HIGHLANDERS,

NOW THE

## 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

### RAISING OF THE REGIMENT.

The regiment was raised in 1794, in accordance with a desire expressed by George III. to the Duke of Argyll, the Marquis of Huntley, the Earl of Bredalbane, and Thomas Graham, of Balgowan, that they should raise some regiments for foreign service. A letter of service was granted, dated 10th February, 1794, and in March it was decided that the establishment of the regiment should consist of 1,112 officers and men, including two lieutenant-colonels. Duncan Campbell, of Lochneil, who was a captain in the Foot Guards, was appointed lieutenant-colonel commandant of the regiment, and assumed the command at Stirling on the 15th April of that same year. By an order dated 16th May, 1794, the Officers' Regimental uniform was determined as follows, viz.:—Field dress, jackets or frocks hooked at the top—cloth or cassimere vests—kilts and belted plaids—black velvet stocks (buckled behind) with false collars—hair close cut and clubbed, well powdered at all parades, with rosettes on the clubs. The colour of the epaulette white, with facings yellow.

The men's uniform was:—

Full Highland dress—facings, yellow—lace, black and white—yellow oval shoe buckles—the kilt and plaid, green tartan with black stripes.

### FIRST INSPECTION OF THE REGIMENT AND PREPARATIONS FOR ACTIVE SERVICE.

The first inspection of the newly-raised regiment was made at Stirling on the 26th May by General Lord Adam Gordon, who highly complimented the attention and good appearance of the men. The state on the day of inspection was:—

	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank & File.
Present ...	31 ...	22 ...	671
Sick ...	0 ...	0 ...	12
On furlough	0 ...	0 ...	2
Total	31	22	685

The regiment remained at Stirling for about a month after this, marching about the middle of June to Leith, at which port on the 17th and 18th of the month it embarked *en route* for Netly, where it went in encampment on the 9th June. The King approved of the list of officers, and the regiment was numbered the 98th. Meanwhile the regiment had been ordered to be kept in a state of constant readiness for active service, and to be brought forward in discipline, and particularly in firing with ball—an order which we can well understand was faithfully carried out. On the 7th November the 98th took up winter quarters at Chippenham, and on the 19th January, 1795, orders were received to hold the regiment in readiness to proceed for foreign service on the shortest notice.

The regiment marched for Pool Barracks on 28th January, and arrived on 2nd and 3rd February—marched for Fareham 20th and 21st, and arrived at Gosport on 22nd and 23rd April.

### EMBARKATION FOR AND ARRIVAL AT THE CAPE, 1795.

On the 5th May embarked at Spithead as part of the joint expedition under Major-General Alured Clarke to South Africa against the Dutch. The regiment arrived at St. Salvador on the 6th July and Simon's Bay on the 3rd September, and was landed at Simon's Town on the 9th of that month.

## THE BATTLE OF MUYSENBERG.

The 98th arrived too late to take part in the battle of Muysenberg, which had been fought a few days previously without the aid of the reinforcements. To properly understand the position of affairs at this time, we cannot do better than give the following extract from Mr. Theal's capital history of the Cape Colony. "A force of about four thousand men was embarked in a fleet under command of Admiral Elphinstone, with orders to take possession of the Cape Colony. On the 11th June, 1795, nine ships of war, forming part of this fleet, entered Simon's Bay. The Admiral at once sent an officer to Governor Sluysken, bearing despatches from himself and General Craig, in which was enclosed a mandate from the ex-stadtholder, commanding the Governor to admit the troops of the British King into the Castle and elsewhere in the colony, and also to admit British ships of war into the ports, and to consider such troops and ships of war as the forces of a friendly power come to protect the colony against an invasion of the French. To this a reply was made by the Governor and members of the Council of Policy, in which they expressed their gratitude to His Britannic Majesty for the assistance offered to them, and stated that they would avail themselves of it if any attempt at invasion by a foreign power should be made.

The troops in garrison at Cape Town were not more than eleven or twelve hundred strong. They consisted of some men of a German regiment in the Dutch pay, some artillerymen, and a Hottentot Corps. But to protect the country the Governor claimed the right of compelling the burghers to take up arms. All attempts to induce the authorities to place the colony under British protection having failed, Admiral Elphinstone issued a proclamation, in which he stated that the English could not allow the Cape to fall into the hands of the French, and thus permit their Indian trade to be destroyed. Four hundred and fifty men of the 78th Highlanders, and three hundred and fifty marines being the whole military force under the command of General Craig, were then disembarked, and possession was taken of Simon's Town on the 14th July. About one thousand six hundred burghers of the Cape and Stellenbosch districts rallied to

the support of the Government, and most of these, with a company of armed slaves, and a small detachment of regular troops, were sent forward under command of Colonel De Lille to occupy the pass of Muysenberg, which is a very strong position on the road between Simon's Town and Cape Town. As the British force was very small for active operations the General determined to await the arrival of Sir A. Clarke's re-inforcements, amongst them being the 98th. But after waiting in vain for more than three weeks the English officers resolved to make an attempt to carry the strong position held by the Dutch at Muysenberg. For this purpose 800 seamen were landed from the fleet, and were formed into two battalions commanded by Captains Spranger and Hardy of the *Rattlesnake* and *Echo* sloops of war. The road from Simon's Town runs on the sandy beach along the western shore of False Bay, until beyond the pass of Muysenberg, which is merely a narrow passage between a steep mountain and the sea. A little beyond this the road turns and then crosses the isthmus passing through Wynberg. The English general advanced to the attack at the head of about 1,600 men, while a heavy fire was opened from the ships of war ranged along the beach, opposite the Dutch encampment. De Lille then threw out small parties of mounted burghers, Hottentots, and slaves to annoy the English by skirmishing; but as these parties were easily driven back, he was prevented from using his cannon against the advancing foe. Some companies of soldiers, with the naval brigades following close behind the fugitives, safely reached the hill-side above the pass and easily put the whole Dutch force to rout. Having lost Muysenberg, which should have been defended to the last extremity, De Lille rallied his forces at a place a little to the northward, where there was a battery which enflamed the head of the pass. But from this position he retreated in disorder upon the first appearance of the English troops issuing from the pass to attack him. General Craig then encamped at Muysenberg, where within a few days he was re-inforced by three hundred or four hundred soldiers sent to his assistance from St. Helena. Cape Town was in a state of great excitement. The inhabitants still retained sufficient national pride to make them

feel deeply ashamed of the result of the action at Muysenberg. They clamoured for the arrest of De Lille on the charge of cowardice and treason. In the Dutch camp all was confusion. The regulars laid the blame of their defeat upon the burghers, and the burghers hurled back the charge upon the regulars. The Hottentots were discontented and loud in their complaints of ill-treatment by the burghers. The Governor found it necessary to place De Lille under arrest in hopes of appeasing the citizens; and to pacify the Hottentots by promises of increased pay and better treatment. To Major Buissine was entrusted the command of the Dutch forces, whose principal camp was at Wynberg." Such was the condition of things when on the 4th September the remainder of the British fleet arrived, having on board 3,000 soldiers, and amongst them the 98th Highlanders. The landing of Sir Alured Clark's reinforcements, which had thus opportunely appeared on the scene, took place at Simon's Town, on the 9th and the 98th marched straight on from thence to Muysenberg, and encamped there with the rest of the army under General Craig.

#### THE ADVANCE ON WYNBERG.

Having been strengthened by the three regiments brought out by Sir Alured Clarke, General Craig determined to at once march upon Wynberg. There was no great resistance, however, to be expected, for, as we are informed in Mr. Theale's history, the burghers, upon hearing of the affair at Muysenberg, commenced to desert their colours in such numbers that soon all further chance of resistance was gone. On the 14th September the English force now five thousand strong struck its camp and again went forth to battle. The position taken up by the Dutch was soon forced. The battalion companies of the 98th, under Colonel Campbell, formed the centre of the British line, while the grenadier company—for so the regiments were constituted in those days—formed part of the grenadier battalion commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Ferguson, the light company being attached to the light battalion under Major King, both of the 84th regiment. As we have intimated the encounter between the two parties was of a very simple character. The 98th lost only four men. The

Dutch retreated towards Cape Town and hostilities were suspended for twenty-four hours to arrange terms of surrender. On the 16th September the 98th entered Cape Castle and relieved the Dutch garrison by capitulation, the latter, however, marching out—as they well deserved—with all the honours of war. Sir James Craig was installed Governor and in this manner was ended the rule of the Netherlands East India Company in South Africa after an existence of one hundred and forty-three years. Upon the surrender of the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies the following general order was issued "Head-Quarters, Castle, Cape Town, 19th September:—All the forts and batteries in Cape Town and its dependencies being now in possession of his Majesty agreeably to the articles of capitulation signed on the 16th instant, the Commander-in-Chief feels great satisfaction in expressing the high sense he entertains of the merits of Major-General Craig and the officers, soldiers, seamen, and marines who composed the army, through whose spirited exertions and cheerful perseverance through every hardship this great object has been so successfully accomplished, and for which he begs they will accept of his warmest thanks. At the same time he assures them he will not fail to represent their gallant conduct in the warmest terms to their most gracious sovereign by the earliest opportunity, and that he shall be happy to avail himself to contribute to their ease and prosperity." The flank companies were also thanked by a general order issued during the same month.

#### THE DRESS OF THE REGIMENT, 1795.

About this time the uniform of the regiment was changed to that worn in India, namely, a jacket and trousers, short black half gaiters with small brass buttons, and a round hat.

Battalion officers to wear black feathers in their hats, grenadier officers to add a small upright white feather, and the light infantry officers a small green one on the left side of their hats.

#### SALDANHA BAY.

After the events described in the last article, there appears to be nothing of special interest in the history of the regiment until the 17th August, 1796, when the grenadier and light

companies were engaged in the operations against the expedition sent from Holland under Admiral Lucas, for the purpose of again obtaining possession of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope. This attempt is so fully described by Mr. Theal in his history, already referred to, that we will again avail ourselves of his carefully collected facts. "The Batavian government," he says, "had resolved to attempt the recovery of the colony. For this purpose a fleet was fitted out, consisting of the *Dordrecht*, 68, *Van Tromp*, 64, *Revolutionaire*, 64, *Castor*, 40, *Brave*, 40, *Syren*, 24, *Havoc*, 24, *Bellona*, 24, and the *Maria* transport, armed *en flûte*, laden with military stores and carrying 40 guns. On board this fleet 2,000 soldiers, principally German mercenaries, were embarked, this number being considered sufficient for the purpose, as it was anticipated that before their arrival the British Fleet, with a large portion of the land forces, would have left for the East Indies, and that they would be joined off the Cape by a French Squadron with troops from the Mauritius and Java. It was expected also that the colonists would join the Dutch Army as soon as a landing was effected. The expedition was placed under the command of Admiral Lucas, who accepted the charge with reluctance, as he believed the force to be too small and too poorly fitted out to accomplish the end in view. So ill-supplied was he that his provisions were nearly exhausted before he reached the colony, and he therefore put into Saldanha Bay with the double purpose of procuring supplies and arming the colonists. On an island lying in the entrance to the bay he landed his sick, and began to construct fortifications. Here he learned that success was hopeless unless the French fleet joined him quickly, for none of the colonists went to his assistance, nor could he obtain those stores of food, of which he was so greatly in need.

On the 5th August, 1796, information reached Cape Town that a Dutch fleet had left Europe, and might be expected at any moment. On receipt of this intelligence, Admiral Elphinstone, who was then in Simon's Bay, put to sea with a fleet, consisting of the *Monarch*, 74, *Tremendous*, 74, *America*, 64, *Ruby*, 64, *Stately*, 64, *Trident*, 64, *Jupiter*, 50, *Crescent*, 36, *Moselle*, 20, *Sphinx*, 20, *Rattle-*

*snake*, 16, and *Echo*, 16 guns. After cruising about some days without seeing the enemy, the British Admiral put back to Simon's Bay, and was informed where the Dutch fleet was. On the 14th he again set sail, and on the 17th arrived off Saldanha Bay. The garrison of Cape Town at this time consisted of the 28th Light Dragoons, a corps of artillery, and the battalion companies of the 78th, 84th, 95th, and 98th regiments of Foot; the grenadiers of these regiments garrisoned Muizenberg, and the light companies with the Hottentot regiment were cantoned as a reserved corps at Wynberg. But just at this critical moment a fleet of English East Indians, having on board the 23rd and 27th Light Dragoons, the 33rd and 80th regiments of foot, and five companies of the 19th Regiment put into Simon's Bay for refreshment. All of these troops were at once landed, and a re-distribution of the different garrisons took place. General Craig had now a strong army at his disposal, and leaving Major-General Doyle in command at Cape Town, he marched to Saldanha Bay, throwing out before him detachments of Dragoons and light troops, which picked up several parties, the Dutch Admiral had sent out to reconnoitre. So well timed was General Craig's march, that he arrived in Saldanha Bay just two hours before the English fleet hove in sight. On descrying the fleet the Dutch were in great joy, imagining the ships to be those of their friends the French; but they were soon undeceived, when to their great surprise the English drew up in line of battle across the entrance to the Bay. They now perceived that they were completely shut in, and that no chance was left for escape. The Dutch officers had some idea of running their vessels ashore to prevent them from falling into the hands of the English in a perfect state, and to attempt to make their own escape into the country. General Craig, however, suspecting that they might have such intentions, sent an officer with a flag of truce to inform the Dutch Admiral that if the ships were injured he would allow no quarter. The next morning (August 18th, 1796) Admiral Elphinstone sent a flag of truce to Admiral Lucas, requiring him to surrender without delay. Resistance or escape was equally impracticable, and therefore after

an ineffectual request for one of his frigates to convey him and his officers to Europe be surrendered at discretion. So the entire force of ships and men, comprising an expedition from which the Batavian Government expected nothing less than the recovery of the colony, fell into the hands of the English without a shot being fired or a drop of blood being spilt." Adolphus, in his History of England, says, "The value of this acquisition (Saldanha Bay) was great in itself, but more particularly so as the loss of it left to our enemies no intermediate station at which their armaments intended for India could obtain supplies or succour." The same author says it is suggested that as a far superior force under Admiral Elphinstone was well known to be in port, so slight an expedition would not have been employed, but that the Dutch were deceived by their French allies, who for a consideration engaged to furnish an ample assistance, but having received the sum, refused to fulfil their engagement. The Dutch fleet having surrendered, the troops marched back to Groenekloof, about half way to Cape Town, and remained encamped there for three or four weeks.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUCCESS.

The following General Order was issued on the 19th August, announcing the success at Saldanha Bay:—Major-General Doyle has the happiness to make known to the troops the brilliant success that has attended His Majesty's army in the expedition to Saldanha Bay. The whole of the enemy's fleet, and all the land forces destined to attack this colony, have been obliged, by the masterly movements of the Admiral and General, to surrender at discretion.

#### REVIEW OF THE REGIMENT AND CHANGE OF ITS NUMBER.

After the affair at Saldanha Bay the regiment had a period of rest, during which great attention appears to have been paid to promoting the discipline and efficiency of the men. On the 19th June, 1797, the 98th was reviewed by General Dundas, who afterwards issued the following complimentary order:—"Major-General Dundas is perfectly satisfied with the attention of the officers and the steadiness of the men of the 98th Regiment, as well as with the general appear-

ance of the Regiment at the review this morning, and returns his thanks to Brigadier-General Campbell and Lieut.-Colonel King for the attention that they appear to have shown on this occasion as well as at all other times in disciplining and perfecting their regiments." On the 9th October the regiment marched from Muizenberg to Simon's Town to protect the latter place from some seamen of the fleet who had mutinied. They returned to Muizenberg three days later and encamped there for some time previous to again taking up their quarters in Cape Town. In October, 1798 the number of the Regiment was changed from the 98th to that of the 91st. In May, 1799, a regimental school was established for the first time for the non-commissioned officers and men. The terms were fixed at one shilling per month.

#### AN ATTEMPTED MUTINY—FAITHFULNESS OF THE REGIMENT.

The 91st Highlanders had already proved their worth as soldiers, and an opportunity now offered itself for the display of their staunch loyalty and faithfulness. In the beginning of 1799 a strong attempt was made by a number of the soldiers in the garrison at Cape Town to organise a mutiny, their purpose being to destroy the principal officers, and to establish themselves in the colony. Not only did the 91st not take any part in this diabolical attempt, but the papers containing the names of the mutineers and their plans were discovered and seized by the aid of private Malcolm McCulloch and others, the first soldiers of the regiment, who were requested by the mutineers to enter into the conspiracy. Lieut.-Colonel Crawford, in a regimental order, dated 7th August, specially commended the conduct of McCulloch, and declared that he considered himself fortunate in being the commander of such a regiment.

#### ENCAMPMENTS AT WYNBERG AND RONDEBOSCH.

For some little time after this nothing more exciting occurs in the annals of the 91st than their encampments in the neighbourhood. On the 2nd April, 1800, the regiment marched from Cape Town to Wynberg, returning from the camp there on the 21st of the following month to Cape Town. Ten days later we find

the regiment again encamped in the same quarter of Wynberg.

On the 14th September the regiment encamped with the rest of the army at Rondebosch and Wynberg, and for the remainder of that year nothing of special interest is recorded. In 1801 the regiment passed from Brigadier-General Frazer's to General Vandeleur's division, and in parting with them the former officer issued a general order, expressing his entire approval of the conduct of the men while under his command. On the 14th February the regiment re-occupied the quarters in Cape Town, and on the 21st March again elicited a complimentary general order from General Dundas for their efficiency and discipline.

#### **ALTERATION OF THE REGIMENTAL COLOURS.**

In June, 1801, the colours of the regiment were altered, on the occasion of the union between the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

#### **THE COLONY HANDED BACK TO THE DUTCH AND RETURN OF THE 91ST TO ENGLAND.**

On the 27th May, 1802, the treaty of Amiens was signed. "Europe," says Mr. Theal, in his history, "was exhausted, and required breathing time in order to prepare for still greater struggles than those she had just gone through. One of the conditions of peace insisted upon by France and agreed to by England, was that the Cape Colony should be handed over to the Batavian Republic. In accordance with this agreement, a force was despatched from Holland to relieve the British garrison and occupy the forts of the colony. The 1st Jan., 1803, was fixed for the evacuation and the English troops had actually commenced to embark when, on the 31st December, a vessel arrived which had left Plymouth on the 31st October, with orders to delay the cession, as it was probable that war would break out again immediately. The Dutch troops were therefore cantoned at Wynberg, where they remained until February, 1803, when fresh orders from England were received and the colony was given up." Meanwhile, however, the 91st had returned from their Camp at Rondebosch to Cape Town, and in November, 1802, the first division of the

regiment embarked at Table Bay for England, arriving in Portsmouth in February, 1803, and marching from thence to the Hilsea Barracks. On the 28th of that month the second division of the 91st had the honour of delivering over the Cape of Good Hope to the Dutch, which duty having been performed, they also embarked for England on the 2nd March and arrived in Portsmouth in May, rejoining the 1st division at Bexhill, to which place they had moved from Hilsea. Thus ended the share taken by the 91st in the first occupation of the Cape of Good Hope by the English. They have many hardships to encounter and many fresh laurels to win before they again enter the waters of Table Bay and set foot on South African soil.

#### **A REGIMENTAL RELIC.**

Amougst the relics in possession of the regiment, is a celebrated stick, only used on certain anniversaries—its history is as follows:—When the transport left the Cape of Good Hope in 1802 to convey home the regiment it was attacked by a sword fish which left sticking in its timbers a portion of its ivory weapon 33½ inches in length. This became the property of Andrew McLean, afterwards regimental sergeant-major, who made it into a walking stick and by him it was carried during the whole of his services in the Peninsula War. Fighting in the South of France at Waterloo and at Cambray, and with the army of occupation at Paris, Sergeant-Major McLean was promoted to a lieutenancy and having been specially recommended by the late General Sir Charles Rowan he was appointed superintendent of the Metropolitan Police in London, in which post he served for many years, and ultimately retired to Boulogne on a pension of £120 a year. Here Colonel Browne found him residing, when that officer retired from the command of the Dublin Metropolitan Police. Lieutenant McLean died in August, 1869, and Colonel Browne deeming that this relic of its war services would be acceptable to Colonel Gordon and his regiment transmitted the staff to Dover to be the property of the regiment in all times coming, and so to be handed over to its successive sergeant-majors. The names of the battles it was carried in are inscribed on eight plates of solid gold, and it is now used on parades with all honour by the

sergeant-major, on the anniversaries of the following battles :—

Rolleis—August 17, 1808.

Vimiera—August 21, 1808.

Corunna—January 16, 1809.

Pyrenees—From August 8 to November 9, 1818.

Nivelle—November 10, 1813.

Nive—December 9, 1813.

Orthes—February 27, 1814.

Toulouse—April 10, 1814.

#### OFFICERS RESUME PART OF THE HIGHLAND UNIFORM.

On the 24th March, 1803, the officers resumed part of the Highland uniform, namely, regulation Highland bonnets, which were directed to be worn with white cloth or leather pantaloons, and light buff coloured gloves. On the 10th July, the epaulettes of the officers were changed from silver to gold.

In September, 1803, the 91st left their barracks at Bexhill and proceeded to the island of Guernsey, and were cordially welcomed on arrival by Major-General Doyle, who was then commanding the troops there. The stay of the regiment at Guernsey was but a short one, for in the April of the following year they returned to England, and were quartered at Shoreham, and afterwards at Lewes.

#### A SECOND BATTALION ADDED TO THE REGIMENT.

On August 8th, 1804, His Majesty was pleased to direct that a second battalion should be forthwith formed from the men to be raised in accordance with Act of Parliament known as the Defence Act, from the counties of Perth, Argyll, and Bute. The receiving officer to be stationed at Perth. The recruiting for the first battalion was conducted by the second, by order October 29, 1805, in which year we find the 91st forming part of the brigade reviewed at Bexhill by the Commander-in-Chief, and here they were specially noticed for their soldierly appearance and correct discipline.

#### RECORDS OF THE SECOND BATTALION.

The second battalion embarked for Germany in 1813, under command of Major Gibbs, and marching to Stralsund under Brigadier-General

Gore, joined the army in Holland. On the 2nd March, 1814, this battalion was under command of Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham, and was present in the attack on Bergen-op-Zoom on the 8th of that month, in which action a number of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. It is noted that in this affair Sergeant-Major Frederick Cahill of the second battalion of the 91st attracted the notice and attention of every officer present by his conspicuous conduct. He also succeeded in securing and carrying off one of the colours of the battalion when the officer who had held it fell in consequence of wounds. Sergeant-Major Cahill was recommended and promoted to the rank of ensign. As no record of this battalion appears to have been sent to the first battalion, further particulars concerning it cannot be given.

#### THE REGIMENT EMBARKS FOR HANOVER.

Towards the end of December, 1805, the somewhat monotonous routine of garrison duty was relieved by order for the regiment to embark for Hanover, and to be brigaded along with the 26th and 28th Regiments, under command of Major-General Mackenzie Fraser. After the regiment had been a month in Germany, however, the British army was re-called, and the 91st returned to England in the end of January, 1806, taking up its quarters at Feversham. On its return it was inspected by Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, whose satisfaction with the appearance of the regiment was noted in the regimental orders of that day.

#### THE REGIMENT PROCEEDS TO IRELAND.

On March 17th, 1806, the 91st marched to Ashford, and on the 31st July encamped at Shorncliffe. On the 10th August his Royal Highness the Duke of York reviewed the regiment and expressed his satisfaction. A regimental order was thereupon issued by the commanding officer, expressing his gratification at the marked approbation the men had that day received from his Royal Highness. On the 27th October the regiment marched to Hythe, and from thence, on the 21st December, to Dover, where it embarked on the 24th for

Ireland, arriving at Cork on the 7th January, 1807, and Fermoy on the following day. The headquarters were stationed at Mallow, from which place they proceeded on November 26th and 27th to Cashel. On January 14th and 16th the regiment left Cashel for Enniscorthy, and on April 6th and 7th marched to Dublin. The regiment was here reviewed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. On the 21st, 23rd and 24th May the regiment left Dublin for Bandon.

#### THE PENINSULAR WAR.

In the meantime events had occurred which again rendered it necessary for the 91st to proceed on foreign service. On the 15th June, 1807, the regiment embarked at Monkstown to form part of the Peninsular expedition under Lieut-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, being brigaded with the 40th and 71st Regiments, under Brigadier-General Crawford, forming the 5th Brigade. On July 8th, the transports arrived in Mondego Bay, and on August 3rd the regiment arrived and encamped at Lavos. It took up a new position on the 7th of that month, and on the 9th advanced with the rest of the army. On the 17th, in the affair at Obidos, the light companies of the regiment, with those of the brigade under the command of Major Douglas of the 91st, were engaged, when the enemy's advanced posts were driven from their position. On August 21st the regiment was present at the battle of Vimeira, forming part of the reserve under General C. Crawford, which turned the enemy's right, a movement which was specially noticed in the official despatch concerning this important battle. In the beginning of September, by a new distribution of the army, the 91st was placed in Major-General Beresford's brigade, with the 6th and 45th Regiments, and in the 4th division, that of Lieut-General Sir Arthur Wellesley. On September 20th, the regiment encamped near Quillos, and was attached to a brigade of the 3rd division.

#### ADVANCE INTO SPAIN.

On the 19th October, 1808, the regiment advanced into Spain with the rest of the army under Sir John Moore, the order of route being as follows: Arrived at Abrantes, October 25th; Castello Branco, October 30th; Cavellos, November 3rd; Belmonte, November 8th; Granada, November 9th; Morillo November 10th,

Cindad Rodrigo, November 11th, and Salamanca November 18th. The regiment on the 28th November composed part of the reserve army under Major-General the Hon. Edward Paget, in which capacity it served during the whole of Sir John Moore's memorable retreat to Corunna. This incident has been so graphically described in Napier's and Southey's histories of the Peninsular war that it is unnecessary to now enter into its details. To make this record as complete as possible, however, we may mention in general terms that on entering Spain Sir John Moore discovered that the whole of the Spanish forces with which he was to act had been thoroughly routed. He had sent his cavalry and artillery by another route than that which he had pursued, and a wide tract of country still lay between himself and a portion of his army which had been sent to him from England, under Sir David Baird, and which had landed at Corunna. Sir John Moore remained for a time inactive at Salamanca, urged to advance by the British Ambassador in Spain, but himself inclined to retreat into Portugal. Suddenly, discovering that the French intended to surround him, he commenced a rapid if not too hasty march to Corunna. In that retreat through the mountains of Galicia, in the depths of a severe winter, Sir John Moore displayed the highest qualities of a military commander. In this retreat the records of the 91st show the following dates of their movements:—January 5th, 1809, arrived at Sugo; January 8th, continued the retreat; January 10th, reached Bretanzos; January 11th, took up a position with the rest of the army on the heights before Corunna. The battle in which the brave Sir John Moore lost his life was fought on the 16th, the 91st still forming a portion of the reserve. Although to all appearances exhausted and worn out by their long and arduous march, the British, animated by the example of their heroic leader, turned upon their advancing foes and inflicted upon them a decisive repulse. "The victory," says a writer on the subject, "was dearly bought for Sir John fell, but in a manner worthy of the last moments of Epaminondas, Bayard, and Wolfe. With his expiring breath he hoped that the people of England would be satisfied—that his country would do him justice." In the evening the 91st embarked on board the tran-

sports and arrived at Plymouth Sound on the 28th of that month.

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and men left sick in Portugal when the regiment had advanced, were subsequently formed into a company, and placed as such in the first battalion of detachments. The company was actively employed in the operations of the 10th, 11th, and 12th May, 1809, which led to the capture of Oporto, and the subsequent pursuit of the enemy into Spain.

#### THE BATTLE OF TALAVERA.

The company which had been formed under Captain Walsh, of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who were left sick in Portugal on the advance of the regiment with Sir John Moore, was engaged on July 27th and 28th in the battle of Talavera, in which, out of a total strength of 93 officers and men, it lost one officer (Lieutenant Macdougal) and nine rank and file killed, one sergeant and 30 rank and file wounded, and one officer (Captain James Walsh) and 19 men missing—in all 61 officers and men. Captain Walsh was taken prisoner by the enemy in a charge, and with many other officers was marched under strong escort towards France. He, however, effected his escape at Vittoria on the night of August 20th, and after suffering the greatest privation and hardship, he rejoined the army in Portugal, and reported himself personally to Lord Wellington. Captain Thomas Hunter, of the 91st, who was acting major of brigade, was also wounded and taken prisoner in this action.

#### EXPEDITION TO WALCHEREN.

While these events were taking place, the main body of the 91st, after being garrisoned in England for a few months, was brigaded with the 6th and 50th Foot, under Major-General Dyott, and placed in the 2nd Division, under Lieut.-Gen. the Marquis of Huntley, preparatory to its embarkation in the expedition to Walcheren under Lieutenant-General the Earl of Chatham. The regiment disembarked at South Beveland on August 9th, and entered Middleburg in the island of Walcheren on September 2nd. Here it remained until December 23rd, when it re-embarked at Flushing, arriving at Deal on the 26th and marched to Shorncliffe barracks. In this expedition the regiment

seems to have suffered severely from the Walcheren fever, the casualties for the year 1809 being returned at 37 and 42 for the months of September and October respectively.

#### MOVEMENTS FROM 1810 TO 1812.

During the year 1810 the 91st was stationed at Canterbury, Ramsgate, and Ashford, and was one of the regiments which fired a *feu de joie* at the latter place on the 25th October, on the completion of the 50th year of His Majesty George III. Nothing of particular interest is recorded during 1811, the regiment being still quartered at Ashford. On February 14, 1812, we find among the regulations issued for age, standard, and bounty of recruits, that men of 5 ft. 4 in. in height if not exceeding 35 years of age, received a bounty of £23 17s. 6d. for unlimited service, and £18 12s. 6d. for limited service.

#### THE 91ST AGAIN TAKES PART IN THE PENINSULAR WAR.

After this brief rest from active service, we again find the 91st taking part in the Peninsular war. The regiment embarked at Chatham on the 18th and 19th of September, 1812, in small craft, at the floating bridge, and dropped down to the Nore, where the men were transhipped on board the transports *Diomede*, *Success*, and *Malabar*. The last-named ship also conveyed 300 men belonging to the Guards. The transports set sail on September 20th, but being dispersed at sea in a gale, they arrived at Corunna as follows, and disembarked on the succeeding days:—*Diomede*, 6th October; *Success*, 9th October; and *Malabar*, 12th October. On the 14th October the regiment set out to join the army under the Duke of Wellington, arriving on November 1st at Villafranca, about twelve miles from Benevento. Information was received on the following day that the enemy were in force at Benevento, and the 91st with a detachment of Guards, the whole being under the orders of Major McNeil, of the 91st, moved to the right en route for Braganza, on the frontiers of Portugal, where they arrived on the 5th of that month, and occupied the garrison and forts, having despatched couriers to find out the grand army. The 91st, which had been placed in the Highland or General Pack's brigade, then under the command of Colonel Stirling of the

**42nd Regiment, in the 6th division, finally removed to San Rom<sup>s</sup>, where it remained during the winter.**

#### VITTORIA.

In April, 1813, the 91st left its winter quarters, and in May 14th advanced with the combined army to attack the enemy. At the battle of Vittoria, on June 21st, the 6th division to which the 91st belonged, was ordered to desile to the right to watch the movements of a division of the enemy during this important action, and on the 2nd it marched through Vittoria and took charge of the guns and other warlike stores abandoned by the enemy.

#### PAMPLUNA.

On June 27th the 91st, with the rest of the army, commenced the march towards Pampluna, and on July 6th the 6th Division, in conjunction with the 5th, invested that fortress. But the blockade of Pampluna having been left on the 5th Division and the Spanish Legion, the 6th Division advanced to San Estevan on July 15th. On the 26th of the same month the enemy having made some movements to raise the seige of Pampluna, the 6th Division moved from San Estevan on that day, and, in conjunction with the 4th and 7th Divisions, on July 28th attacked the head of the French column at the small village of Sorauren, near Pampluna, and completely checked its progress. During the following day the 91st was engaged in interring the dead and collecting the wounded. On the 30th at daybreak the action recommenced on the right of the division by an attack from the enemy's left wing. The action continued hotly until about noon, when the light companies of the Highland Brigade, under the direction of Major McNeil, of the 91st, stormed and carried the village of Sorauren, causing the enemy to flee in all directions pursued by the division and leaving a vast number of prisoners in our hands. In this attack on the 28th the 91st lost one sergeant and 11 rank and file killed; and six officers, Capt. Robert Lowrie, Lieuts. Allan Maclean, John Marshall, and S. N. Ormerod, and Ensigns J. A. Ormiston and Peter M'Farlane and 97 rank and file wounded. On the 30th one private was killed and Major McNeil and 8 rank and file wounded.

#### NIVELLE.

The 91st continued to take part in the pursuit of the enemy, and on the night of August 1st bivouacked on the heights of Roncesvalles; on August 8th it encamped on the heights of Maya. The regiment remained in this quarter until the 9th November, on the evening of which the army marched forward to attack the whole of the enemy's positions within their own frontier, and on the next day, 10th November, the battle of Nivelle was fought, the British attacking and carrying all the French positions, putting the enemy to a total rout. The 91st lost in this action Captain David McIntyre and three men killed, and two sergeants and four men wounded.

#### CROSSING THE NIVE.

On November 11th the British continued to pursue the enemy towards Bayonne, but the weather being extremely wet the troops were ordered into cantonments. The British were in motion again, however, in the beginning of December, early on the morning of 9th of which the sixth division crossed the Nive on pontoon bridges, and attacked and drove in the enemy's outposts. Sir Rowland Hill, with the second division, having crossed on the right of the sixth division, drove the enemy from the position, and pursued them down the main road to Bayonne from Villafranca. As the sixth division had to retire out of range of the fire of the second division, it became during the remainder of the day merely an army of observation. The only casualties of the 91st at the battle of the Nive were five men wounded.

#### MARSHAL SOULT'S SALLY FROM BAYONNE.

Marshal Soult finding himself thus shut up in Bayonne and thinking that most of the British troops had crossed the Nive, made on the 10th a desperate sally on the left of the British army, which for a moment gave way, but soon succeeded in regaining its position and in driving the enemy within the walls of Bayonne. During the action the 6th Division recrossed the Nive and occupied quarters at Ustaritz. At Bayonne on December 13th, Sir Rowland Hill, declined the proffered assistance of the 6th Division which therefore lay on its arms in view of the dreadful conflict that was terminated.

only by darkness. The enemy were completely driven within the walls of Bayonne, leaving the suburbs covered with their killed and wounded.

#### CANTONMENT OF THE ARMY NEAR BAYONNE.

The weather becoming too severe for remaining in tents, the army which had formed a cordon from the Adour to the Nive, were cantoned in the houses in the environs of Bayonne, and were employed in fitting themselves out for the opening of the campaign in the spring and in fortifying their positions.

#### THE BATTLE OF ORTHES.

On the 21st February, 1814, the whole army began to move into the interior, leaving the 5th Division and some Spaniards to blockade Bayonne. On February 26th the 6th Division arrived on the left bank of the Adour opposite Orthes, and on the morning of the 27th, the 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th Divisions crossed on pontoons and drew up on the plain on the right bank of the river. The French thought themselves secure in their fortified heights in front of the British position. About nine o'clock on the morning the Divisions moved down the main road towards Orthes; each division as it came abreast of the enemy's position broke off the road and attacked and carried the position in its front. About noon the enemy fled in all directions, the British pursuing them with loud cheers and taking many prisoners until darkness terminated the chase at Haut-de-Nivelle. On March 1st, the enemy having broken down the bridge at St. Sever the army forded the river a little below the bridge, the water coming to about the mens' waists, and on the following day the enemy were again repulsed at the Aire. In the battle of Orthes the 91st had Captain William Gunn and Lieutenants Alexander Campbell, John Marshall, John Taylor, and twelve rank and file wounded; and at the Aire one man killed, and Captain William Douglas, Ensign Colin Maedougal, one sergeant and fourteen men wounded.

#### THE BATTLE OF TOULOUSE.

The battle of Toulousse which brought the great Peninsular struggle to a close, and in which the 91st played so distinguished a part calls for a more detailed description than most

of the preceding events. The 91st continued to advance with its division and on March 26th arrived at the Village of Constantina opposite and commanding a full view of Toulouse. While the necessary arrangements were going on for pontooning the allies across the Garonne Marshal Soult made great exertions to put himself in a proper posture of defence. It is said he was not even yet without hopes of success, and although it is generally believed that he was not aware of the abdication of Buonaparte, an event which he must have known would put an immediate end to the war, he was unwilling to let slip the only opportunity he now had of wiping off the disgrace of his recent defeats. The city of Toulouse is defended by an ancient wall flanked with towers. On three sides it is surrounded by the great canal of Languedoc and by the Garonne, and on the fourth side it is flanked by a range of hills close to the canal, over which pass all the roads on that side of the town. On the summit of the nearest of these hills the French had erected a chain of five redoubts, between which and the defence of the town they formed entrenchments and lines of connection. These defences consisted of extensive field works and of some of the ancient buildings in the suburbs, well fortified at the foot of the height, and along one-half its length ran the small river Ers, the bridges of which had all been destroyed; on the top of the height was an elevated and elongated plain in a state of cultivation, and towards the end next the town there stood a farm house and offices. Some trenches had been cut around this house, and three redoubts raised on its front and left. Pontoons having been procured, part of the allied army, including the 91st Regiment, crossed the Garonne on the 4th April, but in consequence of the swollen state of the river through the melting of the snow on the Pyrenees it was necessary to remove the pontoons, and it was not until the 8th that they could be replaced. On that day the whole army crossed the river, excepting General Hill's division, which remained opposite the town in front of the great bridge to keep the enemy in check on that side. From the insulated nature of the town no mode of attack was left to Lord Wellington but to attempt the

works in front. Accordingly on the 10th April he made the following dispositions:—The Spaniards, under Don Manuel Freyre, were to attack the redoubts fronting the town; General Picton and the light division were to keep the enemy in check on the great road to Paris, but not to attack; and Marshal Beresford with General Clinton and the sixth division was to attack the centre of the entrenchments, while General Cole with the fourth marched against the right. Napier in his History of the Peninsular War narrates with what indomitable courage the Highlanders fought that day, and how the 91st with the rest of its division charged upon the redoubts. Mr. Malcolm, formerly of the 42nd Highlanders, in his Reminiscences of the Campaign says:—"Major-General Pack came up and calling the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the brigade around him addressed them to this effect: "We are this day to attack the enemy; your business will be to take possession of those fortified heights which you see towards the front. I have only to warn you to be prepared to form close column in case of a charge of cavalry to restrain the impetuosity of the men; and to prevent them from wasting their ammunition. Our division (the sixth) approached the foot of the ridge of heights on the enemy's height and moved in a direction parallel to them until we advanced to the point of attack. We advanced under a heavy cannonade and arrived in front of a redoubt which protected the right of the enemy's position where we were formed into two lines—the first consisting of some Portuguese regiments—and the reserve of the Highland Brigade. Darkening the whole hill, flanked by clouds of cavalry and covered by the fire of their redoubt, the enemy came down upon us like a torrent, the generals and field officers riding in front and waving their hats amidst shouts of the multitude resembling the roar of an ocean. Our Highlanders, as if actuated by one instinctive impulse, took off their helmets and waving them in the air returned their greeting with three cheers." The fight, as we know, was a desperate one, but eventually a decisive victory was obtained by the British, the Highlanders carrying all the fortified redoubts and entrenchments close to the walls of Toulouse. Soult evacuated the city the same evening and was allowed to retire

without molestation. The French lost 5 generals and about 3,000 men killed or wounded; while the allies lost 4 generals and some 4,500 men and officers, 2,000 being Spaniards. The 91st had 1 sergeant and 17 men killed, and 7 officers, namely, Col. Sir William Douglas, who commanded the brigade after Sir Dennis Pack was wounded, Major A. Meade, Captains James Walsh and A. A. J. Callander, Lieuts. J. M. Macdougal, James Hood, and Colin Campbell, 1 sergeant and 93 rank and file wounded, a good many of the latter afterwards dying of their wounds.

Napier in his history says in the thickest of the fight when the French under Harispe brought up fresh men and had pressed the 42nd and 79th at the redoubts of Colombette and Calvinet, the 91st and 11th came up—the battle turned and the French abandoned the platform.

#### TATTERED UNIFORMS.

At this time, it is recorded, the clothing of the army at large, but the Highland Brigade in particular, was in a very tattered state. The clothing of the 91st had been two years in wear; the men were thus under the necessity of repairing their old garments in the best manner they could. Some had the elbows of their coats mended with grey cloth, others had the one half of the sleeves of a different colour from the body; and their trousers were in as bad a condition as their coats. The following further particulars respecting the uniform of the 91st at this time are given in a statement of John Campbell, who was living in Aberdeen in 1871, and who served with the 91st throughout the Peninsular war. "At the battle of Toulouse," he says, "we wore the grey trousers and a black bennet with a peak and a red and white feather in the front. Except for the pipers we were dressed like the rest of the line, but we were brigaded with the 42nd and 79th and called the Highland Brigade. They had their kilts with them, but they mostly wore grey trowsers in the Peninsula, especially in the winter." With reference to the kilts, we find the following paragraph in the history of the 42nd Highlanders, who formed part of the Brigade:—"The 42nd, which was the only corps in the brigade that wore the kilt, was beginning to lose it by

degrees; men falling sick and left in the rear frequently got the kilt made into trousers, and on joining the Regiment again no plaid could be furnished to supply the loss. Thus a great want of uniformity prevailed, but this was of minor importance when compared to the want of shoes. As the march continued daily no time was found to repair them until completely worn out; this left a number to walk with bare feet."

#### THE COMMAND OF THE HIGHLAND BRIGADE AT TOULOUSE.

The statement of John Campbell, from which a quotation has just been made, relates the following interesting incident respecting the command of the Highland Brigade at Toulouse. "When General Pack was wounded Sir John Douglas assumed the command and shortly afterwards the Duke of Wellington came up and asked who had command of the Brigade. Colonel Douglas replied that he had the honour to command it just then, when Wellington said 'No man could do better,' adding 'take the command and keep it' which Colonel Douglas did until the Brigade reached home. Lieut. Colonel Douglas was presented with a gold medal for his services in the Peninsula, and subsequently created a K.C.B."

#### CAPITULATION OF THE FRENCH TROOPS.

On April 11th, the day following the battle of Toulouse the 91st were employed in collecting the wounded, interring the dead and also in collecting the spare arms and shot that lay about. On the 12th, the enemy having evacuated Toulouse during the preceding nights, the tents of the British army were struck and the 91st with the rest of the Highland Brigade followed the French towards the heights of Mont Auban. On arriving at St. Felice on the 14th the British were met by a flag of truce from the French Commander, and on the 16th the French troops capitulated. On that same day the following general order was promulgated from the Adjutant-general's office, at Toulouse: The General commanding the French troops at Mont Auban having announced his submission to the provisional Government established at Paris until the arrival of his Majesty Louis 18th, the Commander of the Forces has agreed to suspend hostilities with the said General.

The light troops therefore are not to pass the Farne below Villa Brumier or to approach nearer to Mont Auban than that place, or than three fourths of a league from Mont Auban on the road to Toulouse. The communication through Mont Auban is, however, open for couriers &c. to Paris and other places." On April 19th, the 91st was directed to break up its encampment and go into cantonments. On the following day the regiment cantoned near Auch. A general order was on that same day issued announcing the suspension of hostilities between the allied armies and the French army and congratulating the British troops upon the prospect of an honourable termination to their labours.

#### GENERAL CLINTON TAKES FAREWELL OF THE 6TH DIVISION.

In an order of the 19th May General Clinton took farewell of the 6th Division in the following terms;—"Being called upon to another service Lieut.-General Sir Henry Clinton takes leave of the 6th Division. He does not without regret give up the command of troops, who, in their meeting with the enemy, have not failed honourably to distinguish themselves; while their orderly and general soldier-like appearance have often attracted the notice and approbation of the great commander of the forces. The Lieutenant-General is desirous of acknowledging how highly he feels indebted to the valour so often displayed by the brave 6th Division. He cannot better mark the interest he feels in the future reputation of those regiments than by reminding their commanding officer how entirely their good order depends upon a prompt obedience to the orders and a steady and continued observance of the regulations framed for the government of the army; that no regiment can continue essentially in order unless the qualifications of its officers for the performance of their duties be provided for and rigidly required, and that the capacity for the instruction of the soldier ranks foremost in the qualifications of regimental officers. Sir H. Clinton returns his thanks to Major-Generals Pack and Lambert and to Colonel Douglas for the support which they have afforded at the head of the respective brigades; to the commanding and other officers for their assistance in the field as well as the

maintenance of discipline; and to the whole of the troops for their general good conduct."

#### FROM AUCH TO IRELAND.

On June 1st the Highland Brigade marched from Auch, and on the 7th encamped at Blanque Fort, where, on the 11th June, it was reviewed by the Duke of Wellington. On the 24th of June the first detachment of the 91st sailed for home, the second detachment following on July 1st, and both arriving at Cork towards the end of the latter month.

1814-1815.

During 1814 the regiment proceeded to Athlone, Limerick, and Clonmell. On March 24th, 25th, and 26th, 1815, the regiment marched in three divisions en route for Middleton, arriving there on the 26th, 27th, and 28th, and embarking on the 29th. The regiment was attached to the armament then assembling under the orders of Major-General Johnstone, but its destination being countermanded, the regiment, on March 17th, accompanied by the 42nd, 71st, and 79th regiments, sailed for Carlingford Bay in the north of Ireland. On April 17th the regiment was transhipped into small craft and sailed for Ostend, where they arrived that same evening. The head-quarters and the company smacks, however, were driven back to Dover, and did not arrive at Ostend until the night of the 20th.

#### WATERLOO.

To better understand the nature of the further movements of the 91st, it will be necessary to briefly glance at what had been taking place in Europe since their return from the Peninsula. The record of the regiment has already shown that the Peninsular War was brought to a conclusion by the battle of Toulouse. In 1814, after an absence of five years, the Duke of Wellington returned to England and for a while was engaged in diplomatic duties. Having been a short time Ambassador at the restored Bourbon Court at Paris, he attended in 1815 the General Congress of European powers at Vienna. The deliberations of that assembly were broken up by the news that Napoleon had not only quitted Elba but was in the Tuilleries with a large army flocking to his standard, while the Bourbon

King was flying to Ghent. Upon the receipt of this intelligence the representatives of the eight powers at Vienna drew up a paper in which Buonaparte was denounced as a disturber of the peace of the world. The Duke of Wellington was nominated Commander-in-Chief of the army to be concentrated in the Netherlands, and in the month of April, 1815, the "Iron Duke" was at Brussels preparing for the impending contest, which resulted in the great battle which brought the continental war to an end. It had been arranged that the allied troops should be mustered on the Rhine, and it was in order to cover this general gathering, and also to protect Belgium, that Wellington decided to fix his head-quarters at Brussels.

At Ostend the 91st transhipped on the 21st April in lighters in which they were conveyed up the canal to Ghent. On the 24th the regiment marched into Oudenarde, and was placed in the 6th British brigade, commanded by Major-General Johnston, and in the 4th division, employed as a corps of observation under the command of Lieut-General the Hon. Sir C. Colville, forming part of the 2nd army corps-commanded by Lieut-General Lord Hill, K.G., C.B. On June 16th—the same day that the French attacked Blucher at Ligny, and Wellington repulsed Marshal Ney at Quatre-Bris—the enemy having attacked General Colville's outposts, the division marched to join the army, which it did on June 17th at Braine-le-Compte. On the following day, June 18th, the memorable battle of Waterloo was fought. Early in the morning the 4th Division, in which the 91st were placed, together with a Division of the troops of the Netherlands, was sent to cover the road to Brussels, and was threatened by a column of the French. Thus the 91st escaped taking part in the great action itself, although its services were so efficient as to secure for the regiment full participation in all the honours, grants and privileges which were granted to the army on that occasion. Major T. H. Blair, of the 91st, was wounded during the action when serving as Major of the brigade to Major-General Lord George Beresford, on the staff of the Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington.

#### THE WATERLOO ROLL.

Among the highly-cherished relics of the regiment is the Waterloo Roll, now handsomely

bound and preserved with most jealous care. It is dated : Camp before Paris, 7th August, 1815, at which same date it appears to have been rendered to the Adjutant-General's office. The roll of officers is as follows : Lieut.-Colonel Sir W. Douglas, K.O.B.; Captains James Walsh (major), T. H. Blair (major, 3rd British Brigade, wounded); William Steuart; Archibald Campbell (1); Dugald Campbell; James C. Murdoch; Alex. J. Calleender (major); Archibald Campbell (2); Robert Anderson. Lieutenants, John Campbell, John Russell, Alexander Campbell (1), Robert Stewart, Andrew M'Lachlan, Carberry Egan, Andrew Cathcart (wounded on 24th), John M'Dougall, James Hood, Alex. Smith, T. L. Fenwick, Thomas Murray, R. S. Knox, Charles Stuart, John McDonald, Eugene Brown, Alex. Campbell (2), Lieutenants George Scott (adjutant), William Smith, James Black (wounded on the 24th), Alexander Sword. Ensigns N. Lamont, W. Trimmer, James Paton, Dugal Ducat, Andrew Smith, Laurence Lind. Paymaster, Dugald Campbell; Adjutant, George Scott (lieutenant); quartermaster, James Stewart; surgeon, Robert Douglas; assistant surgeons, G. M. McLachlan and W. H. Young.

#### WATERLOO PRIZE MONEY.

In the *London Gazette* of the 21st of June, 1817, a notification is published respecting the grant by Parliament to the army that served under the command of Field Marshal His Grace the Duke of Wellington in the battle of Waterloo and capture of Paris. The share of the 91st, which was to be paid at 18, Suffolk street, Charing Cross, between 25th August and 24th Sept., 1817, was

Field Officers and Colonels ...	£433 2 4 <i>½</i>
Captains ...	90 7 8 <i>½</i>
Subalterns...	34 14 9 <i>½</i>
Sergeants ...	19 4 4
Corporals, Drummers, and Privates ...	2 11 4

This distribution was also given to the Dutch, Belgic, Hanoverian, and Brunswick troops.

The whole of the officers and men who served with the regiment on the 18th of June were presented with Waterloo medals.

#### CAMBREY.

On the 19th of June the 91st proceeded in pursuit of the flying enemy, and on the 24th of

that month sat down before Cambrey, a strongly fortified town seventeen miles from Valenciennes. Having refused to capitulate, the town was carried by assault, and the whole of the garrison surrendered on the next day. The loss of the 91st in this attack was two lieutenants (Andrew Cathcart and James Black, and six privates wounded, and one private killed. On June 26th the division proceeded *en route* to Paris, and on the 1st of July arrived at Autel-de-Dieu, where Private Thomson of the 91st was killed on his post by some of the French picquets.

#### SUSPENSION OF ARMS.

On the 4th of July there was a suspension of arms between the allies and the French army under the walls of Paris. In the *Irish Times* of the 17th January, 1879, we read of the death of William Ballantine of the 91st, who was present at Waterloo and shared in the advance on Paris, and who was the first man to enter the French capital having been one of the escort sent with the flag of truce.

#### MOVEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT UP TO 1818.

On the 5th July, 1815, the 91st removed from Autel-de-Dieu to St. Denis and on the 7th of that month, marched to and encamped in the Bois-de-Boulogne, near the town of Neuilly. Here they remained until October 31st when the regt. marched for Aspazon and arrived there on the 2nd November, and went into cantonments. On the 20th November a general order was issued from Field Marshal, the Duke of Wellington, returning thanks to the general officers and troops, on his breaking up of the army he had had the honour to command, and re'erring to the uniform good conduct of both general officers, and troops. On the 30th November the regiment was placed in the 3rd brigade under Major-General Sir H. Clinton. On December 11th the 91st marched to Sevres and Meudon, arriving there on the 15th, and marching again on the 27th for Goveau and adjacent villages, where they arrived on the 28th, and went into cantonments. On the 23rd January, 1816, the regiment marched for Saint Pol, and in February the headquarters were fixed at that place, while detachments were sent out to occupy 39

different villages. On the 6th August the regiment encamped on the heights near St. Omer, and on the 5th October, moved with the whole of the army to the plains of Denain. During the same month the regiment, together with the rest of the army, was reviewed by the Duke of Wellington and several foreign Princes, after which the 91st returned to St. Pol, and the adjacent villages. Here the regiment remained until March 13th, 1817, when it was transferred to the 2nd Brigade, and marched on the 6th April to join the brigade at Valenciennes, where it arrived on the 9th April. On the 18th September the regiment moved with the division and encamped on the glacis of Cambrai. On the 2nd October the 91st again arrived on the plains of Denain, and was reviewed by the Duke of Wellington and foreign Princes, returning on the following day to the barracks at Valenciennes. On Christmas day, 1817, the strength of the regiment was 42 sergeants, 13 drummers, and 759 men. On August 19th, 1818, the division at Valenciennes moved and encamped on the glacis of Cambrai and on the 18th proceeded to the plains of Denain, where the 91st took part in the third review there by the Duke of Wellington and foreign Princes. On the 11th September the regiment was again present at the fourth review by the great Duke. On the 24th October the regiment returned to Cambrai, and the allied forces being ordered to evacuate French territory, the Division marched for Calais on October 27th, and encamped there on 1st November. On the following day the 91st embarked in small craft for England. The headquarters disembarked at Dover on the 3rd November, but the smacks having been dispersed in a gale, some of the troops were disembarked at Ramsgate on the 4th of that month. The regiment next marched for Bexhill Barracks and arrived there on the 8th November. Early in December the regiment marched for Haslar Barracks, and on the 17th embarked on board transports at Gosport and sailed the same day for Ireland, disembarking at Cork on the 24th, finally marching on the 27th and 28th in two divisions for Dublin, which place was reached on the 6th and 7th January, 1819.

#### UNDER ORDERS FOR JAMAICA.

The 91st remained in Dublin until July 22nd, 1820, during which period it underwent a

number of inspections by various officers, and in each case gained their approbation. On July 22nd it proceeded to Enniskillen, furnishing detachments to the counties of Cavan, Leitrim, and Donegal. Orders having been received in June, 1821, that the regiment should prepare to proceed for Jamaica from the Clyde, the 91st embarked on the 18th at Donaghadee for Portpatrick, and marched to Glasgow, where it arrived on the 27th and 28th. The regiment was here inspected by Sir T. Bradford, and on the 5th November the 1st division, consisting of the grenadiers, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th companies, with part of the 6th company, embarked at the Broomielaw on board steam boats, which conveyed them to Greenock, where they were transhipped into the transport brigs *Brilliant* and *Loyal Briton*, for Jamaica. On January 9th the second division, with the head-quarters and the light and 5th companies, embarked at the Broomielaw in steam boats, which conveyed them to Greenock, where they were also transhipped on board the transports. Sail was set on the 16th, but the ships meeting with contrary winds were driven into Milford Harbour. They again sailed on the 26th, and arrived off Madeira on the 15th February anchoring at Kingston, Jamaica, in that month and March. In November the headquarters occupied the barracks at Spanish Town.

#### FURTHER CHANGES OF UNIFORM.

Before proceeding with the next movements of the regiment, it will be as well at this point to say a few words respecting the further changes made in the uniform of the 91st. In compliance with a regulation for the dress of officers, dated Horse Guards, 25th April, 1822, the regimental jacket worn by the officers was discontinued and a coatee substituted with regulation sword and sash. On the 18th June of the following year an order was received from the Horse Guards, to the effect that breeches, leggings and shoes were discontinued as forming part of the clothing of the infantry soldier, blue-grey cloth trousers and half-coats being substituted; the waistcoat provided with the clothing to be considered as a "necessary" article furnished by the soldier. The regiments in the West Indies were ordered to continue to wear the blue serge trousers, and as an equivalent for the difference in the value of cloth trousers

furnished to the other regiments of infantry, three pairs of cotton socks for sergeants, and two pairs for other ranks were directed to be furnished by the colonel, and in future to form part of the soldiers' annual equipment. In a Horse Guards order of 3rd November, 1823, in reply to Major McDonald, officers of light companies were directed to wear jackets and no coatees, and to conform in all other respects to the instructions contained in the general dress regulations under the heading of light infantry. The regulation sash was also ordered to be worn by the light infantry. In 1826 the officers of the light infantry were ordered to wear coatees corresponding with those of the rest of the line, the only distinction being wings, bugle ornaments, and green feathers.

#### THE WEST INDIES.

There is but little of interest to record of the 91st during their stay in the West Indies. The casualty returns show that the regiment suffered severely through sickness. In 1822 the total number of deaths amounted to sixty, of which thirty took place in the month of January alone. In 1824 a detachment consisting of one sergeant and twenty rank and file under Ensign Lovett was placed at Turks Island, Bahamas, returning to head quarters in August of the following year. The deaths during 1824 amounted to 70, nineteen occurring in the month of January and 25 in the month of February. In 1825 the total reached the high proportion of 143, October, November and December being the three worst months. In 1827, the quarters of the regiment were moved from the south to the north side of Jamaica. The casualties in 1826 were 36; in 1827, 75, and in 1828, 33. From the 25th July, 1822, to the 17th April, 1831, the total losses of the regiment by death were 20 officers, 30 sergeants, 10 drummers, and 576 rank and file, making in all 636.

#### RETURN FROM JAMAICA TO ENGLAND.

In March, 1831, the 91st embarked for England in three divisions, disembarking in May and June, when the reserve companies having come south from Leith, the whole regiment was again united at Portsmouth in the beginning of August. In December the 91st left Ports-

mouth and was stationed, head-quarters at Oxford, and detachments at Weedon and Northampton, and then Warwick. In 1832 the regiment was at Bolton and Manchester. In July of that year it proceeded to Mullingar, where the head-quarters was stationed, detachments being sent out to various towns. During this period the regiment was several times called upon to assist the civil authorities at the elections and often had to perform the most harrassing duty. Notwithstanding this no irregularity took place on their part, nor was the slightest complaint ever preferred against them. For this creditable conduct the regiment was highly complimented. In 1833 the 91st was at Naas and Fermoy, and nothing appears to have occurred during the remainder of its stay in Ireland.

#### ST. HELENA.

In 1835 the regiment having received instructions to hold itself in readiness to embark for St. Helena, a regimental depot was formed and on the 29th October, headquarters consisting of four companies under the command of Major Lamont, embarked and landed in Cork on the 31st, proceeding to and occupying the barracks there until the necessary arrangements were made for final embarkation. The regiment embarked in November and sailed on the 1st December, 1835, disembarking at St. Helena on the 26th February, 1836.

#### SECOND VISIT TO THE CAPE.

Nothing of importance occurred during the time the 91st was stationed at St. Helena. The regiment was distributed among the various stations in that island, and at the several inspections gained high praise for appearance and discipline. On the 4th June, 1839, headquarters, grenadiers, No. 2, and light infantry companies embarked for the Cape of Good Hope, leaving three companies behind under the command of Captain Blackwell. The transport with the rest of the regiment on board anchored in Algoa Bay on the 28th June, but the men were unable to land on account of the surf until the 3rd July, when they encamped near Port Elizabeth. The headquarters marched to Zwartkops river next day and encamped; and on July 8th arrived at Graham's Town. Nothing of note occurred in connection with the

regiment for the first two years of its stay at the Cape. It was regularly employed in detachments in the performance of duty at the various outposts on the Fish River, Blinkwater, Double Drift, Fort Peddie, and other places, the detachments being relieved at regular intervals.

#### DISINTERMENT OF THE BODY OF NAPOLEON.

In 1840 the detachment, which was left at St. Helena in 1839, took part in the disinterment of the body of the Emperor Napoleon. The French Government, having requested the removal of the remains, a squadron, commanded by the Prince de Joinville, son of the King, consisting of *La-Belle Poule*, frigate, and the corvettes, *Favorite* and *Breste*; came to St. Helena, timing their arrival so that the day of taking away the remains of the ex-Emperor should correspond with the day of his arrival twenty-five years before. On the 16th October the coffin was lifted open and identified, deposited in a sarcophagus, and conveyed to Jamestown with all the honours which the garrison, consisting of the detachment 91st Highlanders, and inhabitants, could bestow, and conveyed on board the *La-Belle Poule*, where a chapel had been fitted on the main deck. The remains were deposited under the dome of the Invalides, where they still remain. The Communists who threw down his column did not desecrate the tomb of the most remarkable man that France ever produced. A picture is in possession of the regiment showing the line of procession escorted by the opened ranks of the 91st. In March, 1875, the Directeur of the Administration des Monnaies et Medailles wrote in a letter to Major W. B. Battiscombe: "Je m'empresse de vous faire connaitre que l'administration des monnaies est heureuse de mettre à votre disposition un exemplaire en bronze de la medaille dont il s'agit pour être offerte en son nom, au corps d'officiers du 91 Regiment en souvenir du fait memorable qu'elle consacre et auquel le Regiment a pris une part. J'ai l'honneur en conséquence de vous informer que j'ai donné les instructions nécessaires pour que la medaille soit tenue à votre disposition dans les bureaux de l'administration, à l'Hotel, des monnaies." This medal has on one side a head with the words around it, "LVDOV.

PHILIPVS I. FRANCORVM REX." On the obverse is represented the dome of the Invalides and classical figures of France receiving the cor-tege with the words, RELIQVIS RECEPTIS NEAPOLIONIS FVNVS TRIYMPHALS. XV DEC MDCCXL.

#### A RESERVE BATTALION FORMED.

In 1842 the establishment of the regiment was augmented to a total strength of 1,338 of all ranks. A reserve battalion having been formed at home by volunteers from other corps, assisted by recruiting parties, was ordered to the Cape of Good Hope. This wing, under Capt. Bertie Gordon, who had joined the regiment about nine years previously, were united at Naas on May 26th, and on the 27th the battalion, proceeded from Naas to Kingstown and embarked on board the transport *Abercrombie Robinson*. On the 2nd June the transport sailed for the Cape of Good Hope, the strength of the regiment on board being 17 officers and 460 men, Lieut.-Col. Lindsay being in command. The ship also contained drafts of the 27th Regiment and the Cape Mounted Rifles.

#### WRECK IN TABLE BAY OF THE "ABERCROMBIE ROBINSON."

The *Abercrombie Robinson* having touched at Madeira arrived in Table Bay on the 25th August, 1843. Here the battalion was warned for service on the north-eastern frontier of the colony, relieving the 1st battalion of the regiment which was to be stationed at Cape Town. In consequence of this arrangement Lieutenant-Colonel Lindsay and Major Ducat disembarked on the 27th for the purpose of joining the 1st battalion to which they belonged. All the other officers not on duty obtained permission to go on shore, and all landed except six, the command of the troops on board devolving on Captain Bertie Gordon. During the voyage out several men were carried off by typhus fever, and one man was lost overboard. But the most exciting part of the story of the *Abercrombie Robinson* has to be told. During the night of the 27th the ship parted from her anchors and was driven ashore about a mile below Cape Town, near the mouth of Salt River. The narrative is thus graphically given in the records of the regiment:—

At 11 o'clock p.m. on the night of the 27th it was blowing a strong gale, and the sea was

rolling heavily into the bay. The ship was pitching much, and began to feel the ground, but she rode by two anchors, and a considerable length of cable had been served out the night before. Captain Gordon made such arrangements as he could, warning the officers, the sergeant-major, and the orderly non-commissioned officers to be in readiness.

From sunset on the 27th the gale had continued to increase until at length it blew a tremendous hurricane, and at a little after three o'clock on the morning of the 28th the starboard cable snapped in two. The other cable parted a few minutes afterwards, and away went the ship before the storm, her hull striking with heavy crashes against the ground as she drove towards the beach, three miles distant under her lee. About the same time the fury of the gale, which had never lessened, was rendered more terrible by one of the most awful storms of thunder and of lightning that had ever been witnessed in Table Bay.

While the force of the wind and the sea was driving the ship into shoaler water, she rolled incessantly and heaved over fearfully with the back set of the surf. While in this position the heavy seas broke over her side and poured down the hatchways. The decks were opened in every direction and the strong framework of the hull seemed compressed together, the beams starting from their places. The ship had been driven with her starboard bow towards the beach exposing her stern to the sea which rushed through the stern ports and tore up the cabin floors of the orlop deck. The thunder and lightning ceased towards morning and the ship seemed to have worked a bed for herself on the sand; for the rolling had greatly diminished, and there then arose the hope that all on board might get safe ashore.

At daybreak about 7 o'clock the troops who had been kept below were now allowed to come on deck in small numbers. After vain attempts to send a rope ashore one of the cutters was carefully lowered on the lee side of the ship and her crew succeeded in reaching the shore with a hauling line. The large surf boats were shortly afterwards conveyed in wagons to the place where the ship was stranded, and the following orders were given by Captain Gordon for the disembarkation of the troops :—1. The

women and children to disembark first; of these there were above 90. 2. The sick to disembark after the women and children. 3. The disembarkation of the troops to take place by the companies of the 91st Regiment drawing lots; the detachment of the 27th Regiment and the Cape Mounted Rifles to take the precedence. 4. The men to fall in on the upper deck, fully armed and accoutred, carrying their knapsacks and great coats. 5. Every officer to be allowed to take a carpet-bag or small portmanteau.

The disembarkation of the women and children and the sick occupied from half-past eight until ten o'clock a.m. The detachment of the 27th Regiment and the Cape Mounted Rifles followed. The disembarkation of the 91st was arranged by the wings drawing lots, and then the companies of each wing.

At half-past ten, one of the surf-boats which had been employed up to this time in taking the people off the wreck was required to assist in saving the lives of those on board the Waterloo convict ship, which was in still more imminent peril about quarter of a mile from the *Abercrombie Robinson*. There was now but one boat to disembark 450 men, the wind and sea beginning again to rise, and the Captain was apprehensive that his ship might go to pieces before sunset.

The disembarkation of the regiments went on regularly but slowly from 11 a.m. until 3.30 p.m., the boat being able to hold only 30 men at a time. At half-past three the last boat load left the ship's side. It contained those of the officers and crew who had remained to the last, Capt. Gordon, of the 91st, Lieut. Black, R.N., agent of transports, the sergeant-major of the reserve battalion 91st, and one or two non-commissioned officers who had requested permission to remain.

Nearly 700 souls thus completed their disembarkation after a night of great peril, and through a raging surf, without the occurrence of a single casualty. Among them were many women and children, and several sick men, two of whom were supposed to be dying. Although it had been deemed prudent to abandon the men's knapsacks and the officer's baggage, the reserve battalion of the 91st went down the side of that shattered wreck fully armed and accoutred, and ready for instant service.

It would be difficult to praise sufficiently the steady discipline of that young battalion, thus severely tested during nearly seventeen hours of danger, above eight of which were hours of darkness and imminent peril. That discipline failed not when the apparent hopelessness of the situation might have led to scenes of confusion and crime. The double guard of sentries which had at first been posted over the wine and spirit stores were found unnecessary, and these stores were ultimately left to the protection of the ordinary single sentries. Although the ship was straining in every timber, and the heavy seas were making a fair breach over her, the companies of that young battalion fell in on the weather side of the vessel as their lots were drawn, and waited for their turn to muster at the lee gangway; and so perfect was their confidence, their patience, and their gallantry, that although another vessel was going to pieces within a quarter of a mile of the transport ship, and a crowd of soldiers, sailors, and convicts were perishing before the eyes of those on board, not a murmur arose from their ranks, when Captain Gordon directed that the lot should not be applied to the detachment of the 27th Regiment and Cape Mounted Riflemen, but that the 91st Regiment should give the precedence in disembarking from the wreck.

The officers who disembarked with the battalion were Captain Gordon, 91st (in the year 1854 the last remaining officer in the regiment present at that fearful wreck), Capt. Ward, Lt. Cahill, Ensign McInroy, Ensign Lavers, and Asst.-Srgt. Stubbs. If among the ranks of men who all behaved so well it were allowable to particularise any, the names may be mentioned of Acting Sergeant-Major Murphy (appointed a yeoman warden of the Tower by the Duke of Wellington at Major Gordon's request), Colour-Sergeant G. Phillips (transferred to the Cape Mounted Rifles and killed by the Kafirs), Sergeant P. Murray (promoted to the rank of Quartermaster of the Regiment from the 19th Regiment, 2nd Battalion, at Colonel Bertie Gordon's urgent recommendation in March, 1861, he having been appointed Quartermaster-Sergeant of the 19th, 2nd Battalion, from Colour-Sergeant of the 91st in 1857), Corporal F. Nugent (discharged in Africa). It was through the first named that Capt. Gordon communicated his orders and carried them into

execution. Every order he received was obeyed during the confusion of the wreck with the exactness of the parade ground. He never left the part of the ship where he had been stationed during the darkness and terror of the night, although a wife and child seemed to claim a portion of his solicitude; and when he received permission to accompany them into the surf-boat he petitioned to be allowed to remain with Capt. Gordon to the last.

The two sergeants were young lads barely 22 years of age. They had married shortly before the battalion embarked at Kingstown and their wives—quite girls—were clinging to them for support and comfort when the ship parted from her anchors. The guards were ordered to be doubled and additional sergeants were posted to each. This brought sergeants Phillips and Murray on duty. Without a murmur they left their wives and joined the guards on the lower deck. Their example of perfect obedience and discipline was eminently useful. Corporal Thomas Nugent was of great service in helping to encourage the men of the four companies whom it was considered necessary to keep below on the orlop deck which was a position of the greatest danger. He assisted in silencing some whose fears were beginning to be expressed too loudly for the general good, and he also requested to be allowed not to disembark with his company, as it was his wish to stand by Captain Gordon to the last. And if an officer's name may be mentioned the conduct and assistance of Assistant Surgeon Stubbs well deserves notice. He was in wretched health, but on the first announcement of danger he retired to the sick bay and never left his charge until they were all safely landed.

And although last in the narrative the beautiful calmness and resignation of the soldier's wives ought to be ranked amongst the first of those ingredients of order which contributed to our safety. Confusion, terror and despair, joined to the wildest shrieks, were spreading their dangerous influence from the women's quarters when Capt. Gordon first descended among the people on the lower deck. A few words sufficed to quiet them, and from that moment their patience and submission never faltered.

By half-past three p.m. the bilged and broken wreck was abandoned, with all the stores and

baggage, public and regimental, to the increasing gale and to the chances of the approaching night.

The above graphic narrative of the wreck was submitted to Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington, who wrote upon it words of the highest commendation on the conduct of officers and men. "I have never," the Duke wrote, "read anything so satisfactory as this report. It is highly creditable, not only to Captain Bertie Gordon and the officers and troops concerned, but to the service in which such an instance has occurred of discretion and firmness in an officer in command, and of confidence, good order, discipline, and obedience in all under his command, even to the women and children."

In consequence of this disaster, the 91st remained stationed at Cape Town until February, 1843. In October, 1842, Lieut.-Col. Lindsay took command of the 1st Battalion at Graham's Town, and Major Ducat assumed command of the reserve.

#### THE ST. HELENA DETACHMENT REJOINS HEAD-QUARTERS.

The three companies of the 91st which had been left in St. Helena in 1839 under Capt. Blackwell rejoined the head-quarters of the battalion on the 6th December, 1842. On leaving the island Capt. Blackwell was presented with the following address by the inhabitants:—"We, the undersigned, inhabitants of St. Helena, cannot permit Her Majesty's 91st Regiment to take their final departure without expressing our satisfaction at the uniform good order and moral conduct they have manifested during the six years they have been on this station. Those of us who witnessed the transfer of the Government from the East India Company, a measure affecting various interests and involving very important and to a considerable part of the community, very painful consequences cannot but remember the high expectations created by the considerate conduct of the regiment which arrived at this crisis under the command of Lieut.-Col. Anderson, and all of us have seen with pleasure the fulfilment of these hopes in their orderly disposition under the command of that efficient officer and his successor, Major Burne, and also during the last three years in the detachment

under your command. In thus recording the lasting impression left by the friendly disposition of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, we beg, sir, to express our regret at your departure, to present our best wishes for the welfare of yourself and your brother officers, and to convey to you our honest conviction that wherever their duty to their country may call the regiment their colours will be preserved untarnished."

#### AN ANTICIPATED INSURRECTION.

In the beginning of December, 1842, a force consisting of 800 men, of which 400 belonged to the 91st regiment, was ordered to proceed from the Eastern Frontier to the Northern Boundary an insurrection of emigrant farmers having been expected in that quarter. The force was commanded by Colonel Hare, the Lieut-Governor and arrived at Colesberg, near the Orange River, about the end of the month. No active operations, however, were found necessary and in the beginning of February following the troops were ordered to return to their quarters, leaving 300 men of the 91st in cantonment at Colesberg. A general order was issued complimenting the men upon the manner in which they had performed the fatiguing march and on their general good conduct and discipline.

#### SPECIAL SERVICE IN KAFIRLAND.

In the beginning of June, 1843, nearly all the disposable troops on the Eastern frontier were ordered on a special service to Kafirland. The 1st and reserve battalions of the 91st furnished detachments for this service. The object of the expedition was to drive a refractory Kafir chief, named Tola, from the neutral territory, and to dispossess him of a number of cattle stolen from the colony. The third division, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Lindsay, of the 91st Regiment, in the performance of this duty encountered some opposition from a body of armed Kafirs, in a skirmish with whom one man of the battalion was severely wounded. The force returned to the colony in the beginning of the following July, having captured a considerable number of cattle.

#### PROTECTING THE GRIQUAS.

The emigrant farmers beyond the Orange River, or N.E. boundary of the colony, having early in

1845 committed aggressions on the Griquas or Bastards, by attacking their villages or kraals and carrying off their cattle &c., the Griquas claimed the protection of the British Government, the Boers having assembled in large bodies. Accordingly the detachment of the 91st stationed at Colesberg consisting of the grenadiers, No. 2, and light companies under Major F. G. Campbell was ordered to the Orange River about 15 miles from Colesberg. The detachment along with a company of the Cape Mounted Riflemen, crossed the river on the night of April 22nd, and marched to Philippolis, a village of the Griquas. Information having been received that the Boers were encamped in force at Touw Fontein about thirty-five miles from Philippolis, the detachment marched on the night of the 23rd of April for the camp within four miles of which the Boers and Griquas were found skirmishing, the former 500 strong being mounted. Dispositions were made to attack the camp but the troops of the 7th Dragoon Guards and the company of the Cape Rifles pushed forward and the Boers fled in all directions after offering a very slight resistance. The detachment remained encamped until the 30th June, when it was ordered to Graham's Town.

#### NEW COLOURS.

On November 25th, 1845, the 1st Battalion of the 91st was inspected by Colonel Hare, the Lieutenant-Governor, who at the same time presented the regiment with new colours, and expressed his entire approval of the battalion.

#### THE KAFIR WAR OF 1846-47.

We have now arrived at one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the 91st, namely, the prominent part taken by them in the Kafir wars. It may be convenient to briefly indicate the causes which led to the outbreak. In the early part of the year 1846, the Kafirs began to manifest symptoms of a restless and aggressive spirit, their marauding incursions into the colony becoming daily more frequent and daring. A meeting of the Gaika chiefs was convened by His Honour Col. Hare to meet him at Block Drift on the 29th January, at which one hundred and twenty of the reserve battalion 91st Highlanders, three troops of the 7th Dragoon Guards, one hundred of the

Cape Corps, and one gun were present. A splendid picture of this meeting is among the many other valuable relics in the officers mess of the regiment. Matters were brought to a crisis by the following incident which is thus narrated by Napier in his "Travels in South Africa." Although symptoms of discontent had long before the last outbreak been manifested by the Gaikas, although occasional acts of plunder as usual took place on the Colony; and a war at some future period was looked upon as inevitable, in consequence of the scarcely disguised inimical sentiments of Sandilla, backed as he was by the whole of "Young Kafirland," and further encouraged by more injudicious conduct on our part, still nothing had occurred to warrant a belief of the immediate commencement of hostilities. Macomo, the brother of Sandilla, with his wives and concubines, frequented as usual the canteen of Fort Beaufort; and there was, as usual, in a constant state of intoxication. However, on the occasion of one of these bacchanalian visits a follower of his committed a theft of which no further notice was taken than causing the restitution of the stolen property, and driving the offender out of Fort Beaufort. But the thief shortly returned; and having been again detected purloining a hatchet from out of the commissariat stores, he was made prisoner and despatched under an escort with other malefactors to Graham's Town, to be there tried by the civil power for his offence; which having been committed within the bounds of the colony, was of course amenable to its laws. The prisoners thus sent to take their trial were the above-mentioned Kafir, a Hottentot, to whom for the sake of security he had been manacled, an English soldier and a Fingo (the two latter also ironed together), and the whole guarded by a small escort. They had not proceeded many miles from Fort Beaufort, when at the pass known as Dan's Hoek, overlooking the waters of the Kat River, they were suddenly attacked by a strong body of Kafirs who liberated their countrymen, dreadfully mutilating in so doing the poor Hottentot, whose wrist bearing the handcuff was first severed from his body, after which he was deliberately pierced to death with assegais. Meanwhile the English soldier and the Fingo taking advantage of the confusion managed to creep into the bush and in their endeavours

to conceal themselves under the bank of the Kal River, were, owing to their fettered condition, nearly drowned in the stream. Such was the event which at last caused the final outbreak of the long smouldering Kafir war of 1846-7. On Sandilla's refusal to deliver up the perpetrators of this daring and unprovoked outrage hostile operations were immediately undertaken on our part; and it was decreed that this "war of the axe" should be protracted during the space of nearly two years and at an enormous expense to the British public, until the appearance of Sir Harry Smith put an end to the squabble."

At the commencement of the war the battalion proceeded to Fort Peddie, in the ceded territory and shortly afterwards it was joined by detachments of the corps from various outposts. The grenadier company was at first attached to the field force under Col. Somerset, K.H., and was engaged in the Amatola mountains with the enemy on the 16th, 17th and 18th April, when Lieutenant J. D. Cochrane was severely wounded. To prevent confusion it will be necessary to follow the movements of the 1st Battalion and the Reserve Battalion separately, and the details of the abovementioned affairs will be given in speaking of the latter battalion who also took part in them.

The grenadier company, was afterwards attached to the reserve battalion with the exception of a few men who accompanied Capt. Hogg's Hottentot levy to Makassa's country.

#### ATTACK ON FORT PEDDIE.

On the 27th and 28th May, 1846, the headquarters of the battalion was engaged in protecting the Fingo settlement at Fort Peddie, when that post was attacked by upwards of 8,000 Kafirs. An account of this affair is given in the following despatch from Lieut.-Colonel Lindsay, of the 91st regiment, who was in command: "I have the honour to report for the information of His Excellency the commander-in-chief that on the 27th instant, about one o'clock p.m., the resident agent informed me that his spies had come in to say that there were parties of Kafirs above the hills north of the post, who would probably try to take off some of the cattle grazing farthest from it. I directed the troop of the 7th Dragoon Guards, with 14 Cape Mounted Rifles, and the light six

pounder to patrol round the hills and protect the cattle. About an hour after this, the gun was fired several times from the direction of the north-west hill, about two miles and a half from this. I at once caused the infantry to be turned out; and sent out two companies, amounting together to one hundred men, of the 91st Regiment, with the view of affording the cavalry and gun support if necessary. I ordered Major Yarborough out to take command of the whole. The infantry arrived on the ground where the cavalry were about half-past three o'clock, and met the gun returning to the post disabled in consequence of one of the wheel-horses having been shot. The cavalry were then in extended order engaged with the enemy near a dense bush. The infantry advanced and extended one company and commenced firing. Major Yarborough after some time ordered them to retire, so as to draw the enemy more into the open country, which succeeded, and Capt. Sir H. Darell, who had retired behind the infantry, and closed had opportunity of charging with his troops, and reports having sabred from fifteen to twenty of the enemy before they could get to the bush. The infantry then advanced again, and afterwards tried the same plan of retiring. The enemy came out a little way, keeping up a brisk fire, though at long range. The 91st then halted and ceased firing, waiting for the enemy to come on; but as they did not do so, and it was getting dusk, the whole came back to quarters. Major Yarborough reports satisfactorily the steadiness of the men and the conduct of the Fingo, about 100 of whom were skirmishing on the left. He thinks the number of the enemy actually engaged was from 800 to 1,000, and considers that from thirty to forty were killed in the skirmish and charge, besides those who must have fallen from the effects of the shells which were thrown into the kloof before he came up where Captain Sir H. Darell reports the Kafirs were in great force. The only damage sustained by the force sent from this was one troop sergeant-major 7th Dragoon Guards, wounded through the shoulder; one charger (Sir H. Darell's) wounded; one troop horse, 7th Dragoon Guards, wounded; and one horse, Royal Artillery, killed. The enemy expended a great

deal of ammunition. Their skirmishing was perfect—hiding themselves in advancing and retiring behind the smallest ant heaps and cover. I have further to report that this post was attacked yesterday by about 8,000 of the enemy about ten o'clock a.m. The look-out on the tower reported that there were Kafirs on the ground where the skirmish took place the day previous; and about half-past ten o'clock a dense body of Kafirs made their appearance on the southern hill near the Graham's Town road, with another body some distance to the right, composed of horsemen. These moved a little way down, as if to entice the troops out. I was aware from the information of Captain McLean that the enemy were in great numbers all around us, and therefore was not drawn out to leave the post open. All the cattle were driven below the Star Fort, protected by the Fingoies. The wives and the children of the Fingoies were in the ditch of the fort. About half-past eleven o'clock an immense number of Kafirs, horse and foot, appeared on the south-west hills arranged in three dense masses, with detached clumps of horses; other large bodies were also on the hills all round. The force at the front was distributed as follows:—The cavalry, with twenty artillery, were at the cavalry barracks and Star Fort, a sergeant's party at Mr. Webb's, and pickets in the officers, and engineers range. At twelve o'clock the whole of the enemy moved down to the port steadily preceded by clouds of skirmishers. When they came within range I directed Lieutenant King, R.A., to send a round shot at one of the masses, which killed three men. A shell was then thrown and a 12-pound rocket. The latter frightened the cattle, which rushed down towards the Kafirs, and were easily driven off by the Kafirs. The Fingoies pursued them, and succeeded in re-capturing a good number. The enemy so soon as they found our shot so well directed, scattered and got into the kloofs and hollows. One party of some hundreds got down the deep trench to Mr. Webb's house from which the detached party had been withdrawn, and began to plunder what little was left there by the owner; but a shell pitched into the yard, they quitted it, but got into the ditch and gardens about it, and fired at the barracks and fort without doing any injury, but

several of their number were shot from the infantry barrack. A large body came down the small kloof on the left of the Beaufort road, but were dispersed by shells from the tower and by shells or rockets sent at them generally doing damage. I take this opportunity of saying that Lieut. King's practice, which was under my own observation in the Star Fort, was much to my satisfaction. The Kafirs, finding that their attack on the post had failed, except as regarded the capture of cattle, retired to the kloof about two o'clock, when I sent out the cavalry to cut up any stragglers, but they did not succeed in getting near any. The resident agent has reported that four thousand head of cattle were taken off. The attack was by the combined Gaika and T'Slambie, and the numbers who came down as reported above are not overrated. The enemy's loss was severe. Ninety-two dead bodies have been reported, and many more must have fallen, as the Kafirs were seen putting their dead and wounded on horses and bearing them off the field. I should think that their loss may be safely estimated at 200 killed and wounded, most probably more. There has been no casualty on the side of the troops. Two Fingoies were killed and three wounded in the attempt they made to recover their cattle."

#### DEPARTURE HOME OF THE 1ST BATTALION.

Towards the end of June the battalion furnished to the second division of the Army, under Col. Somerset, three companies under a field officer which proceeded with the division as far as the Buffalo affluents in Kaffraria, and rejoined headquarters when the division fell back for supplies on Waterloo Bay in September. The whole force was under the command of Sir Peregrine Maitland, and after encountering many difficulties, hardships and privations, successfully effected the object of the expedition. Soon after this the battalion furnished detachments for the Fish River line, from Trompeter's Drift to Fort Brown and after the second advance of the 2nd division into the enemy's country performed a very considerable amount of escort duty in guarding convoys of supplies for the Kei river and other camps.

During the remainder of the stay of the 1st

battalion at the Cape there is no record of its being engaged in any expedition. On January 12th, 1843, it marched from Graham's Town to Algoa Bay, and thence to Cape Town, where the head-quarters and three companies embarked for home on the 23rd February, followed on the 10th March by the other three companies, arriving at Gosport on the 23th April and 11th May respectively. The dépôt was consolidated with the battalion on the 1st May. By a memorandum dated Horse Guards, 5th May, 1846, a second lieutenant-colonel was appointed to the 91st, as well as to all the regiments having reserve battalions; he was to have the command of the reserve battalion.

#### THE RESERVE BATTALION.—CURE FOR DESERTION.

Having seen the 1st battalion once more safely back in England we will now return to the reserve battalion, which we left quartered at Cape Town after their disembarkation from the ill-fated Abercrombie Robinson. Before proceeding to record their services in the Kafir war it will be interesting to notice Captain Bertie Gordon's cure for the desertions which took place during October and November 1842 among the young soldiers. When eighteen soldiers had deserted in less than six weeks and every night was adding to the number, Capt. Gordon volunteered his services to the Major Commanding, offering to set off in the same day on a patrolling expedition to endeavour to apprehend and bring the deserters back. Captain Gordon only stipulated to be allowed the help of one brother officer, and of a Cape Corps soldier as an interpreter, with a Colonial Office Order addressed to all field-cornets, directing them to give him such assistance in the way of furnishing horses for his party and conveyances for his prisoners as he might require. Capt. Gordon's offer was accepted. Capt. Gordon had not the slightest trace or information of the track of a single deserter to guide his course over the wide districts through which his duty might lead his patrol. In taking leave of his commanding officer before riding off, Major Ducoat said to him, "Gordon, if you do not bring them back, we are a ruined battalion." The patrol was absent from headquarters for eight days, during which Captain Gordon rode over 600 miles; and when on the evening of the 16th November his tired party

rode into the barracks of Cape Town just before sunset, after a ride of 80 miles in 18 hours, 16 out of 18 deserters had already been lodged in the regimental guard-room as the result of his exertions. Two more deserters bearing that Capt. Gordon was out had come in of their own accord, and thus all were satisfactorily accounted for. The desertions in the reserve battalion from that date ceased.

#### THE RESERVE JOINS THE FIRST BATTALION.

The reserve battalion embarked in February, 1842, for Algoa Bay, anchoring there on the 4th and disembarking at Port Elizabeth on the 5th March. On the 7th, the reserve battalion set out for Graham's Town, which it reached on the 13th, and took up quarters at Fort England with the 1st battalion of the regiment. In the beginning of January, 1844, the reserve battalion left Graham's Town for Fort Beaufort, which became its quarters for the next four years, detachments being constantly sent out to occupy the many posts which were established to keep the turbulent Kafirs in check.

#### THE KAFIR WAR—AMATOLA MOUNTAINS.

The outbreak of the Kafir war in the early part of 1846 has already been alluded to in connection with the 1st battalion of the 91st. On the 11th April the head-quarters of the reserve battalion, augmented to 200 rank and file by the grenadier company of the 1st battalion, marched from Fort Beaufort into Kafirland with the division under command of Colonel Richardson, of the 7th Dragoon Guards; and on the 14th the detachment joined Colonel Somerset's division, near the Débé Flats. On the 15th April the two divisions, encamped with their united forces at the Burns' Hill Missionary Station, and on the following morning preparations were made for attacking the enemy, who had assembled in force on the Amatola Mountains. The infantry, 200 of the 91st Regiment, and 180 Kat River burghers who had joined the previous day were placed under the command of Major Campbell, 91st Regt., who was directed to scour the valley of the Amatola, starting at daybreak for that purpose. The cavalry, upwards of 300 strong, with two guns making a *détour* to the left, searched the kloofs, and swept away the cattle from the open grounds at the foot of the

mountains. Towards evening Major Campbell's force came into contact with the enemy, and the account of the engagement is given in the following official report from Major Campbell to Colonel Somerset:—

Bloek Drift, 19th April.—I have the honour to acquaint you that in compliance with your order of the 16th inst., I proceeded from the camp at Burns' Hill, with two hundred rank and file of the 91st Regiment, and one hundred and eighty burgher Hottentots, across the Keiskamma, and up the Amatola Hoek. The principal part of the way was through a narrow path through a densely wooded valley. After proceeding for about five or six miles without any molestation, the country became more open. I here halted for a short time. During the time of our halt, I perceived numbers of Kafirs collecting on the heights all round, but more especially at the only outlet which leads to the flats, where I expected to meet with your division. In forming a moderate estimate of what we could see of the enemy's numbers, I should compute them at two thousand, and all apparently armed with firearms. As their numbers were increasing every moment, and they seemed closing upon us, I determined on ascending the heights without any delay so as to gain the flats and get clear of the bush. The outlet was up a steep rugged cattle path, about three-quarters of a mile in length, thickly wooded on either side, but more particularly on our left. As soon as we commenced the ascent, the Burgher Hottentots skirmishing in our front, the Kafirs opened a heavy fire upon us from front and both flanks. We continued advancing steadily, firing to both flanks. When about half way up, the Kafirs closed on our rear, so that we were entirely surrounded. I here ordered my men to fix bayonets and fire a volley in the thick bush on our left, from which the hottest of the enemy's fire proceeded. This for a short time silenced their fire in that direction, when we again pushed up, keeping up a constant fire to our flanks as before. On gaining the top I formed the men in line to the rear, and commenced firing on the Kafirs, who were now emerging from the bush. My men were now much done up owing to the steepness of the ascent; at this moment, you arrived with your division to our support.

With the subsequent occurrences of the day you are acquainted. The casualties of my party on this occasion were three privates 91st killed; one corporal and two privates wounded; one Hottentot burgher wounded, who died on the following morning, and my horse shot during the ascent. I have much pleasure in being able to state that the whole of the party under my command, including the burgher Hottentots, behaved with the greatest coolness and determination." Major Campbell adds in a postscript, "On this occasion the Kafirs acknowledge to have lost 200. [It is well known that the Kafirs always endeavour to conceal the numbers they lose in war, so the chances are that what even they acknowledge is greatly under the mark.] The conduct of my two hundred men was admirable; nothing but coolness and the most determined courage, under a merciful God, brought us through. One poor fellow after being wounded shot one and bayoneted two. We were at times actually muzzle to muzzle." Colonel Napier in his "Travels in Southern Africa," says "It was probably judicious to advance at once on what the Kafirs had ever considered their impregnable fastnesses. The great fault however, consisted in making this movement on the Amatola with a force totally inadequate to the object in view if resistance were anticipated on the part of the Kafirs; and moreover encumbered by a large train of luggage drawn on wagons, though a broken, wooded, mountainous and intricate country. But apparently it was never dreamt that the Kafirs really meant to show fight, or so small a force as 1,500 or 1,600 men (part of which consisted of heavy cavalry, perfectly useless on such ground), would never have been sent on this expedition. In short the opening of the campaign was apparently looked upon by many more in the light of a pic-nic or excursion of pleasure than anything else. Great, however, was their mistake, for now the Kafirs, on what they considered their own ground, fought on the 16th with the utmost determination. The brunt of the action fell upon the 91st, which gallantly led up a steep wooded ravine by Lieut.-Colonel Campbell, was surrounded on all sides by overwhelming numbers of the enemy. "This jungle," said an eye witness, "was actually

red with Kafirs in all the hideousness of their war paint, who, mostly armed with firelocks and yelling forth their war cry taunted our men with their usual term of defiance, " Izapa ! Izapa !" (come on! come on!).

On attaining the summit of the pass as already described in Major Campbell's official despatch, that officer was joined by Colonel Somerset, who by his judgment and thorough knowledge of the country successfully conducted the retrograde movement of the 18th, when he safely led back the force to Block Drift, saved the remainder of the wagons with the captured cattle, and gallantly repulsed every attack of the assaulting Kafirs, swarms of whom beset the line of march, and endeavoured by every means to cut off his retreat. The guard on the large train of wagons consisted of a detachment of the 91st Regiment under Captain Scott. The rear of the retiring column was brought up by Captain Rawstorne of the 91st, and his company, assisted by Lieutenant Howard of the 1st battalion. In the attacks made by the enemy from the cover of the dense bush which extends the greater part of the distance to Block Drift, Captain Rawstorne was wounded in the stomach by a musket ball, and one man of the 91st was killed and one mortally wounded.

On approaching the Tyumie or Chumie River the ammunition of Captain Rawstorne's company being all expended, it was relieved from protecting the rear by the grenadier company of the 91st. The wagons crossed the river, the drift being held by the reserve battalion of the 91st and a few dismounted dragoons, the guns of the Royal Artillery firing from the higher ground on the opposite side of the river.

Mrs. Ward, in her book "Cape and the Kafirs" says with reference to this incident in the war of 1845: "Thus scarcely 1,500, not all regular troops, encumbered with 125 wagons, made their way into the fastnesses of those savages, who were many thousands in number, and although unable to follow up the enemy, of whom they killed at least 300, succeeded in saving all their ammunition, captured 1800 head of cattle, and finally fought their way to the original ground of dispute. Among the slain was afterwards discovered a soldier of the 91st, who had probably been burned to death by the

savages, as his remains were found bound to the pole of a wagon and horribly defaced by fire."

#### ATTACK ON THE BAGGAGE GUARD AT BURN'S HILL.

During the operations in the Amatola mountains, the division under Major Gibsone of the 7th Dragoon Guards, which had been left in charge of the baggage at Burn's Hill was attacked on the night of the 16th, and Captain Bambrick of that regiment was killed. In his despatch Major Gibson states:—"About seven o'clock, just as I had diminished the size of my camp, we were attacked by a considerable body of Kafirs, whom we beat off in six or seven minutes, I am sorry to say with the loss of four men of the 91st killed and four wounded. On the 17th Major Gibsone, in compliance with Colonel Somerset's instructions, moved from Burn's Hill at half-past ten a.m. From the number of wagons (125) and the necessity of giving a support to the guns, Major Gibsone was only able to form a front and rear baggage guard, and could not detach any men along the line of wagons. After proceeding about a mile shots issued from the kloof by the side of the road. Lieut. Stokes, R.E., ran the gun up to a point some 300 yards in advance, and raked the kloof with a shell. When half the wagons had passed the Kafirs made a dash upon one of them, firing at the drivers and some of the officers' servants, who were obliged to fly; then took out the oxen and wheeled the wagon across the river. An overpowering force then rushed down from the hills in all directions, keeping up an incessant fire, which was returned by the 7th Dragoon Guards and the 91st with great spirit. The gun was also served with much skill, but owing to the Kafir's superiority in numbers Major Gibsone, to prevent his men being cut off was obliged to retire to Burn's Hill where he again put his men in position. A short time after this a company of the 91st under Major Scott advanced in skirmishing order, keeping up a heavy fire, but the wagons completely blocking up the road the troops were obliged to make a detour and after considerable difficulty succeeded in getting the ammunition wagons into a proper line, but found it quite impracticable to save the baggage

wagons, the Kafirs having driven away the oxen. One of the ammunition wagons broke down, but the ammunition was removed to another. The troops then fought their way inch by inch to the Tyumie Camp, where they were met by Colonel Somerset's brigade, and where they again encamped for the night.

Napier says : " At the savages plundered the wagons at Burns' Hill, scattered abroad their contents, arrayed themselves in the garments of our troops, ate and drank not only our supplies, but the very contents of the medicine chests (devouring the blistering ointment and drinking the laudanum), their ferocious passions were roused to the highest pitch. Cruel tortures awaited such of our people as unfortunately fell into their power. Their bodies were mangled after death, part of their clothes and accoutrements were dispatched, in sign of triumph, throughout the length and breadth of the land, and the Amakosse rose en masse to drive the 'white man' into the sea."

#### ATTACK ON THE OUTPOSTS.

After the affair of the Amatola on the 16th, 17th and 18th of April, the Kafirs poured into the Colony and thinking to carry all before them assaulted the following outposts which were held by a detachment of the reserve battalion of the 91st regiment ; but they were in every instance repulsed with heavy loss, namely : at the Tyumie post on the 19th April when one private of the 91st was wounded ; Leuve Fontein on the 19th when two privates of the 91st regiment were killed ; at Blinkwater post 20th April ; Double Drift 26th April ; Mancazana post on the 1st and 3rd May, and Trumpeter's Drift 2nd May. Concerning the attack on Blinkwater post Col. Napier says : " The post happened to be at the time occupied by a small party of the 91st under the command of a sergeant. The Kafirs rushed on as usual in overwhelming numbers to the attack but were steadily repulsed ; and finding all their efforts useless against the gallant little band who so resolutely held their own, were at last fain to retreat, with a considerable loss in killed and wounded, most of whom they, however, carried off. The brave man who headed this gallant defence was Sergeant Snodgrass, of the 91st. Gladly do I record his name, for with truth has it been said that the English

soldier fights unnoticed under the cold shade of the aristocracy, and spite of a few vivifying rays cast by the high-minded conqueror of Scinde through the gloomy shadow on his noble deeds, that freezing shade is yet far from being entirely dispelled. Even now the humble names seldom figures in a despatch, and the bright flash of the bayonet is, generally speaking, only noticed by such as are driven before its glittering point." Among those who were honourably mentioned by Sir Peregrine Maitland in General Orders for their conduct in defending their respective posts when attacked were Lieuts. Metcalfe and Thom and Sergeants Snodgrass and Clarke, of the 91st.

#### BLOCK DRIFT.

The headquarters of the reserve battalion remained at Block Drift until July, 1847. On the 12th May, 1846, it was attacked by the Kafirs, who were repulsed with the loss of a chief and 60 men killed, while the 91st had one man mortally wounded. The following is the official report by Major Campbell, who was in command of the 91st at the Post :—

Block Drift, May 18th, 1846.—I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of his Honour the Colonel commanding that yesterday about 2 p.m. a body of one hundred and fifty mounted Kafirs were seen approaching the cattle slaughter guard (twelve men of the 91st Regiment) which was about four hundred yards above Fort Thompson on the slope of the hill, and immediately commenced firing upon them. Considering this to be only a ruse on the part of the Kafirs to draw the force out of the building, I merely sent a party, consisting of one officer and twenty men, to support the cattle guard who were retiring on the camp, and got the rest of the men and the gun into position I then opened a fire with the gun, and after a few discharges, which seem to have been effective, as several Kafirs were seen to fall from their horses and were afterwards picked up by the others and carried off. The body of Kafirs then retired up the hill out of range and immediately, as I had anticipated, a large force of Kafirs on foot made a rush from the top and from each side of the wooded hill, about eight hundred yards in rear of the building and made directly for it. By this time I had the gun brought to the other flank so as to fire on the

hill, and opened a fire of musketry from the top windows and roof on them as they advanced, which checked them and made them change their direction to the thick bush on our right rear. The gun was then brought to bear on this point when the Kafirs retired in various directions behind the hill to our rear. It is impossible to say what may have been the loss of the enemy on this occasion, but on that part of the hill where the gun and musketry fire were directed there were distinctly seen eight bodies carried away. Our casualty was one man of the cattle guard severely and dangerously wounded. Whilst these operations were going on another large body of Kafirs both mounted and on foot carried off the whole of the slaughtered cattle and sheep. This party kept along the ridge of the south-west between this and Port Victoria, and shortly fell in with the trek oxen which were grazing in that direction under their leaders and drivers, and captured the whole of them, killing one of the drivers. Shortly afterwards I saw the oxen and Kafirs make a detour to the left and go in the direction of the Amatola mountains. Having one day's rations of meat only for those on the post, I caused it to be divided into two days' supply, and reduced the forage allowance." In a second report, also dated May 13th, Major Campbell says, "I may add that the guard which was out yesterday, although nearly a mile distant, escaped in a most remarkable manner, as by the time the relief which I sent out to their aid had reached they were completely surrounded by Kafirs, and this small party deserves the greatest credit for the manner in which they fought their way through a body of attacking Kafirs so many times more than their number, and to which I was an eyewitness."

The following interesting incidents are from Mrs. Ward's "Cape and the Kafirs." "When the reserve battalion was holding Block Drift a very daring act was performed by two private soldiers of the regiment. A despatch arrived for the Governor, Sir Peregrine Maitland, escorted by 18 mounted burghers, with a request from the commandant at Fort Beaufort that it should be sent on as soon as possible. The communication between Block Drift and

Fort Cox, where the Governor was, was completely cut off, and accordingly volunteers were called for to carry the despatch. Two men immediately came forward, Robert Walsh and Thomas Reilly, and to them the despatch was entrusted. They left Block Drift shortly after dark, and proceeded on their perilous journey dressed in uniform, and with their muskets. All went well for the first six miles, although they found themselves in the vicinity of the Kafirs. Suddenly, on entering a wooded valley, at the foot of the Amatola Mountains, they came right upon a Kafir encampment, and had hardly time to throw themselves on the ground in the thick underwood, when they found to their horror that the natives had heard their footsteps as the latter rushed into the thicket to look for the intruders. Fortunately a porcupine was sighted, and the Kafirs, evidently satisfied, returned to their camp, muttering that it was an "Easter-forke," Anglise porcupine, that had alarmed them. Walsh and Reilly, holding their breath, saw the Kafirs prepare to eat their supper, after which they began to post their sentries. One was put within six yards of the gallant fellows, who, not quite disengaged, still kept quiet. The remaining Kafirs rolled themselves up in their blankets and went to sleep. The sentry stood for a few minutes, looked round, then sat down for a few more minutes, looked round again, and then wrapped himself in his blanket and slept peacefully, too. Walsh and Reilly, as may be imagined, did not give them the chance of waking, but made off. They then made a wide circuit, and after numerous escapes from detection, once having been challenged by a Kafir sentinel who was not asleep, they came to the Keiskama river, and knowing that all the fords were guarded by the Kafirs, they had to cross by swimming, finally reaching Fort Cox shortly before daylight. Here their dangers were not over, for the sentries, not expecting anything but Kafirs, treated them to some rapid fire firing. Again they lay down in shelter until day-break, when, being recognised as British soldiers, they were warmly welcomed, and delivered their important despatches. Poor Walsh was afterwards killed in action, and Kelly was discharged with a pension after 21 years service, though it is to be regretted that neither received at the

time any public reward of their gallant night's work, which in these days would certainly have been rewarded with the Victoria Cross."

"During the advance of the enemy on Block Drift, at the beginning of the war, and when the post was commanded by Major Campbell, he took up a position on the top of the school-house, rifle in hand; four men were employed in loading his arms for him, and he brought down two of the enemy successively in a few minutes. When the third fell dead a soldier of the reserve battalion could restrain himself no longer; forgetting Major Campbell's rank as an officer, in his delight at his prowess as a soldier, the man slapped his commanding officer on the back with a shout of delight, and the exclamation, 'Weel done, sodger.' Was not such a compliment worth all the praise of an elaborate despatch?"

#### TROMPETER'S DRIFT.

Lieutenant Dickson, of the reserve battalion of the 91st, while commanding at Trompeter's Drift, frequently obtained the approbation of Sir Peregrine Maitlaid, and Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston for his zeal and activity. On the 21st May when a convoy of wagons proceeding from Graham's Town and Fort Peddie was attacked and captured by the enemy on Trompeter's Hill, the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Dickson, who had voluntarily joined the escort, was highly commended by His Excellency the Governor in a general order. Mrs. Ward say:—"On this occasion Lieutenant Dickson, 91st Regiment, who had been ordered to assist in escorting the wagon a certain distance till the other escort was met, nobly volunteered to proceed further and led the advance; nor did he retire till his ammunition was expended. On reaching the rear he found the commanding officer of the party retreating by the advice of some civilians who considered the defile impassable for so many wagons under such a fire. Lieutenant Dickson's coolness, courage and energy in not only leading the men but literally putting his shoulder to the wheel of a wagon to clear the line were spoken of by all as worthy of the highest praise. His horse and that of Ensign Aitchison were shot under their riders."

#### RE-CAPTURE OF SHEEP.

On the 5th June 100 men of the 91st assisted in recapturing from a party of the enemy about

5,300 sheep and goats, and nine horses, and in bringing them in safely to the Post. On the 6th June a strong patrol of 250 of the 91st Regiment, a party of Royal Sappers and Miners with one gun, 40 of the Cape Corps, 400-mounted burghers, and 200 Fingoies, started from Block Drift under the command of Major Campbell, and having scoured all the kloofs and valleys to the foot of the Amatola mountains, and meeting with no opposition returned to the Post. On the 15th June 200 men of the 91st Regiment, 200 of the 27th Regiment, a company of the Royal Sappers and Miners and two guns, with 43 Cape Corps, and 600 of the burghers and Hottentot and Fingo levies under the command of Colonel Hare, again patrolled the Amatola mountains but meeting with no opposition—the enemy only appearing on the top of the hills—the force returned to Block Drift.

#### SKIRMISHES WITH THE ENEMY AND END OF THE WAR.

On the 27th July the Reserve Battalion of the 91st of the strength of 11 officers and 250-men formed part of the first division under the command of Colonel Hare, and having left 90-men to maintain Block Drift, proceeded to the Chumie flats. On the night of the 29th July the Kafirs made an attack on the camp but were soon silenced by the fire of the troops which caused them quickly to retire; and by day-break next morning the division, more than 2,000 strong with two guns, ascended the summit of the Amatola range, the enemy everywhere fleeing before them. The following day the division proceeded to Fort Cox with a view to intercept the retreating foe. On the 4th August the force again took up the pursuit, and for four days was engaged in scouring the kloofs and hills towards the source of the Keiskama River and up to the Buffalo Mountains. Finding that the Kafirs had eluded their search, and meeting with no enemy to contend against, the troops returned to Fort Cox on the 7th of August. On the 16th August a patrol of 150 of the 91st, with a party of the 27th Regiment and 100 Fingoies, ascended the Amatola Mountains, and, passing into the valley below, returned to camp without seeing an enemy. On the same day 81 men of the 91st Regiment, under the command of Capt. Hogg,

7th Dragoon Guards, started for Tambookieland to punish the chief Mampassa, who had now joined in the war against the British. The party was thus employed till the 19th October, when it arrived at Fort Beaufort, having been engaged in the several affairs and skirmishes with the enemy which took place during that time, and in one of which the spirited conduct of Ensign Fitzgerald, of the 91st, was particularly noticed. The detachment marched on the 23rd October to Phoonah's-Kloof and thence to Fort Victoria on the 9th December. On the 23rd August a body of Hottentots and Fingoes that had been sent out on two days' patrol were on their return to Fort Cox suddenly attacked on the Amatola mountains by a superior force of Kafirs, and on the eve of being overpowered by them when the opportune arrival of 100 men of the 91st, hastily despatched to their support, rescued them from their danger, and throwing themselves in the face of the foe directed such a volley into them as to compel them to beat a precipitate retreat, and the party returned to camp without further molestation. On the 29th August the 91st regiment furnished 116 men as part of a patrol under Capt. Durnford, 27th Regiment, which again scoured the bushy kloofs of the surrounding country. On the 5th September the Reserve battalion 91st was directed to remain and occupy Fort Cox with 200 of the Cape Town Burghers, all under the command of Major (now Lieut.-Col.) Campbell. The division having placed the fort in a state of good repair then moved towards the Debe river. While at Fort Cox daily patrols of 100 men, under a captain, were furnished by the 91st regiment and Cape Burghers for the purpose of keeping the surrounding bush clear of the enemy and reconnoitring the neighbourhood.

On the 17th September Lieut.-Col. Campbell had an interview with the Kafir chief Macoma, who said he came in the name of all Kafirland, to sue for peace, and a report of the interview was forwarded to the officer commanding the first division. On the 23rd October a party of 123 men of the 91st Regiment, an equal number of Burghers and six of the Cape Corps, acting in co-operation with the first division, patrolled under Lieut.-Col. Campbell in the direction of Block Drift, and sweeping

along the face of the mountain succeeded in capturing 92 head of cattle. On the 1st December 100 of the 91st Regiment, 100 Cape Town Burghers, and six of the Cape Corps, again sallied out of the Fort, and co-operating with the 1st Division, as on the previous occasion, captured 106 head of cattle and nine horses, having experienced very trifling opposition.

The headquarters and two companies entered Kafirland with Col. Campbell's column, and were present in the operations undertaken in the Amatola and Tabudoda Mountains during the months of September and October. As a result of these operations the Kafir chief Sandili surrendered, the 91st having had only three men wounded. Lieut.-Col. Campbell and the above column received the warmest approbation of Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Berkeley in orders of Dec. 17th, 1847, at the close of the war. At the end of October the two companies above mentioned, under the command of Captain Scott, marched to King William's Town to join the force about to proceed to the Kei River, under the commander-in-chief Sir George Berkeley. They were attached to Col. Somerset's division, and served therewith until the end of December, when peace was concluded, and the detachment of the 91st returned to Fort Beaufort.

#### THE BATTLE OF BOOMPLAATS.

In January, 1848, the reserve battalion of the 91st moved from Fort Beaufort to Graham's Town, but nothing of note occurred till the month of July. In that month two companies under command of Capt. Rawstorne marched to Colesberg to co-operate with a force under the immediate command of the Governor, Lieut.-General Sir Harry Smith, against the rebel Boers in the N.E. district. Detachments under Lieutenant Owgan from Fort Beaufort and under Ensign Crampton from Fort England having joined, the strength of the party was one captain, five subalterns, seven sergeants, two drummers, and 163 rank and file. The entire force, which was in light marching order, consisted of two companies 91st, two companies 45th, two companies Rifle Brigade, two squadrons Cape Mounted Rifles and two six pounders. On the route India rubber pontoons were used to cross the Buffalo River, and at Colesberg on the 21st of the month, within 21 miles of the Orange river, which was then unfordable,

several attempts were made to construct a raft, but at last a hawser was fastened to a tree on the opposite side, and then a lighter rope was passed over by which the india-rubber pontoon was worked backwards and forwards. On the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th the force and baggage were carried over, but not without difficulty, on account of the banks and the rapidity of the current. By sunset, however, on the 26th, the whole of the force encamped on the right bank of the river. After the troops had crossed Captain Rawstorne remained at Botha's Drift, on the Orange River, with a party of men of the 91st to guard the drift and keep open communication with the colony. On the 27th the troops marched at daylight and after a march of twenty miles encamped on the plains near Phillipolis at Benlois Hoek. On the 28th, marching at daybreak, swarms of grey locusts were encountered almost obscuring the sky. Passing Phillipolis, a village of the Griqua Kafirs, the force after a twenty-mile march encamped for the night. On the 29th the march was continued at dawn. After proceeding ten miles a halt was made at some deserted farm houses for breakfast. These houses were situated on the slope of a hill overlooking an extensive plain called the Boomplaats, which, extending some miles, was terminated by a range of low rocky hills rising one above the other in height. Through these hills the road wound and on them the Boers had taken up their position, adding to its natural strength a breastwork of piled stones. While at breakfast tidings reached the force that they were soon to meet the enemy, and resuming the advance at 11 o'clock they arrived at the foot of the hills between one and two p.m. The Boers received them with a heavy fire. The Cape Corps returning from an attempt to turn the position, the riflemen and 45th regiment in extended order then advanced and on the third and highest crest the Boers rallied and delivered a telling fire. The 91st Highlanders remained with the guns till the rebel Boers advanced to turn their left and attack the guns and wagons. The Highlanders were then ordered to fix bayonets and charge, which they did in the most gallant manner, causing the enemy to retreat in the greatest confusion. At the end of two hours' hard fighting, the Boers fled after a short resistance

behind the walls of a kraal, the guns coming to the front with their fire in the pursuit, which was continued for about eleven miles, until from sheer inability to proceed further the troops halted at Culverfontein for the night. The wounded were left at Boomplaats. At ten o'clock the tents arrived and the troops encamped. Twenty-six miles had been marched, a smart action had been fought, and the enemy pursued, but the men had not long to rest. At 1 a.m. on the 30th they paraded, and at 2 o'clock leaving all that could impede the rapidity of the march, were again following the Boers. About daylight Welman Pass was reached where it was thought the enemy might make a stand, but they never attempted to rally after their defeat. Lieut. Pennington's name was mentioned by the Commander-in-chief in his despatches as commanding on that occasion the detachment of the reserve battalion which shared in the praise bestowed by His Excellency on the troops. The other officers of the reserve battalion who were present were :—Lieuts. Owgan, Mainwaring, Ensigns Whittle and Crampton and Surgeon Power. Lieut. Owgan was hit with a spent ball, and Ensign Crampton sustained a fracture of the arm, five privates of the battalion also being wounded. In the expedition thus concluded, the troops had marched between 1,100 and 1,200 miles, besides crossing rivers. On the 4th of September, before returning to Graham's Town, one burgher and one deserter were tried before a general court-martial, of which Lieut. Owgan was a member, and were sentenced to be shot to death by musketry in the presence of the troops. The companies returned to Graham's Town on the 15th October, when the force received a Government donation of one pair of socks, one pair of shoes, and one shirt per man. The strength of the rebel Boers was 1,000. After the event above named the headquarters of the battalion remained at Fort England, and Drosdty barracks, Graham's Town, for upwards of two years, sending out detachments to perform the ordinary outpost duties of the frontier.

#### THE SECOND KAFIR WAR.

The second Kafir war broke out at the end of 1850, when every available man was required for active operations in the field. The

reserve battalion of the 91st marched en route to Fort Hare on December 12th. On the 26th a small detachment of the regiment, under Lieut. Mainwaring, marched from Fort Hare to patrol the vicinity of the "military villages," about six miles distant. [Among the arrangements for the protection of the colony, a force was organised in 1848 by placing soldiers discharged from various regiments, including the 91st, on certain grants of land in British Kaffraria, and thus forming military villages. They were named Woburn, Ely, Johannisberg, and Auckland, and in the latter place every man was killed.] As Kafirs were observed to be assembling in force a reinforcement from Fort Hare was sent for; on the arrival of this the patrol proceeded across the country to the Tysamic missionary station where it halted for a short time. On the patrol leaving the Missionary Station a fire was opened on its rear which was kept up until the party got in sight of Fort Hare when a company was sent out to assist.

On December 29th a detachment of the 91st led by Colonel Yarborough marched towards Fort Cox under Colonel Somerset for the purpose of opening a communication with the Commander of the Forces, who was surrounded by the enemy, and of throwing in a supply of cattle for the troops. When nearing the Kamha or Yellowwoods River the Kafirs opened a heavy fire upon this force, when two companies were thrown out in extended order and advanced till they reached the base of the hill which surmounts the Umnassie (or Peel's) Valley) where a formidable force of the enemy had taken up a position behind rocks which skirt the summit of the hill. It was then found necessary to retire, the Kafirs endeavouring to outflank and cut off the retreat. A reinforcement was sent from Fort Hare to the assistance of the patrol, which enabled it to return to the fort after a severe struggle, in which Lieuts. Melvin and Lieut. and Adjutant Gordon and 20 men were killed, and Lieut. Borthwick, two sergeants, and 16 men were wounded, two of the latter dying of their wounds. The loss of the enemy was 200.

On the 5th January the following order was issued from head quarters, King William's Town:—"The Commander-in-Chief desires to express his admiration of the gallant conduct

of the detachment of 150 men of the 91st Regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel Yarborough, on the 29th ultimo, led by the gallant veteran Major-General Somerset, in action with a very superior force of the enemy. The steadiness of the troops, under the disadvantages of the ground, the heat of the weather, and the vast superiority of the enemy shows well the effect of discipline combined with bravery; and His Excellency assures Lieut.-Colonel Yarborough, and the officers and soldiers respectively, that he will not fail to submit to His Grace the Duke of Wellington, to be laid before Her Majesty, the gallant and meritorious conduct displayed by them on the 29th. Major Forbes, 91st Regiment moving the detachment to meet Major-General Somerset, was a soldier-like and judicious act."

On the 7th January, 1851, Fort Beaufort, in which was a small detachment of the 91st, under Captain Pennington, was attacked by a numerous force of Kafirs, under the Chief Hermanus. On the 10th January the following general order was issued from Head-quarters, King William's Town:—The Commander-in-Chief congratulates the whole colony on the signal victory obtained over the numerous rebels, under the traitor Hermanus, by the efforts of the united burghers and regular forces. The detachment of the 91st Regiment was, however, very judiciously kept in reserve. Hermanus was killed in the square of Fort Beaufort. The importance of the victory at a moment when the rebels and the coloured classes had gained some ascendancy, is incalculable, and demands our gratitude to Almighty God.—Signed: W. G. MAYDWEll, Military Secretary."

On February 24th Lieut.-Col. Yarborough, Brevet-Major Forbes, Captain Campbell, Lieut. Mainwaring, Ensigns Borthwick, Squirl, and Bruce, Surgeon Hand, Quartermaster Paterson, 16 sergeants, 9 drummers, and 345 rank and file, were present at Fort Hare when the enemy, in force from 5,000 to 7,000, endeavoured to capture the Fingoes' cattle. Ensign Squirl and 100 men were sent to repel the enemy's advance, a duty which was successfully performed.

For the next few months the regiment furnished frequent detachments for the performance of patrol duty, which required considerable tact, and was attended with great danger.

On one of these occasions, June 27th, when a detachment of the 91st was with Col. Eyre's division, Ensign Pickwick and one private were wounded.

On the 24th of June a detachment of one field-officer, 3 subalterns, Assistant-Surgeon Barclay, 19 sergeants, 3 drummers, and 180 rank and file, under Major Forbes, proceeded to the Amatola Mountains, under command of Major-General Somerset, and was engaged with the enemy on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of June, and on the 2nd July. A general order was issued on the 3rd July, in which the Commander-in-Chief spoke in high terms of the conduct of the troops on this occasion, when the operations were crowned with signal success, and the complete discomfiture of the enemy; 2,200 head of cattle and 50 horses fell into the hands of the troops, while the enemy were driven with considerable loss from every one of the strong and insurmountable passes they attempted to defend. "The accuracy and energy," the order says, "with which Major-General Somerset carried into effect with the 1st division (to which the 91st belonged) the part assigned to him in the complicated and combined movements, deserve the Commander - in - Chief's highest praise. His column sustained the chief opposition of the enemy, principally composed of rebel Hottentots, who resisted our troops with great determination."

Previous to this, on June 6th, Capt. Cahill, of the 91st Regiment, with Lieut. Rae and a small detachment, joined a patrol under Lieut.-Col. Michell, which was attacked by a body of the enemy at Fort Wiltshire. It joined Col. M'Kinnon's division on the Debe, captured a number of cattle and horses, and patrolled Seyol's country, returning to Fort Peddie on the 12th.

On the 14th June the enemy, taking advantage of Major-General Somerset's absence from Fort Hare, assembled their bands in the neighbourhood with the intention of carrying off the Fingoes' cattle. Lieut.-Col. Yarborough promptly despatched all the Fingoes, supported by 180 men of the 91st under Lieut. Mainwaring, for the protection of the herds. The Fingoes gallantly attacked the Kafirs, completely routing them, killing 15 of their number and recapturing the whole of the cattle.

On the 8th August a detachment of the 91st proceeded from Fort Peddie under Lieutenant Rae to escort cattle and wagons to Gentleman's Bush, and after handing them over returned and joined a patrol under Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell. The patrol on the following morning marched to Kamnegana heights and on arriving there lay concealed till 9 a.m. and afterwards descending to reconnoitre were nearly surrounded by the enemy, when Major Wilmot's life was saved by Sergeant Ewen Ferguson of the 91st. The patrol retired and attacked the enemy again on the following morning, returning to Fort Peddie on the 11th. On the retiring of the patrol Lieutenant Rae had a narrow escape, a musket ball having struck a stone on which he was standing.

From October 13th to the 23rd a detachment of the 91st, consisting of 318 of all ranks, under Lieutenant-Colonel Yarborough, was engaged with the enemy on a series of combined movements at the Waterkloof, as also on the 6th and 7th of November. On the night of the 13th the force had encamped on one of the sprouts of the Kaal Hoek River, and General Somerset, who commanded the expedition, writes:—"Marched at 1 a.m.; very thick fog; gained the ascent above Bush Nek by 5 a.m. At 7 a.m. moved to the bush at the head of the Waterkloof; observed the enemy in force along the whole face of the ridge. At half-past 7 I observed Lieutenant-Colonel Fordyce's brigade on the opposite ridge; moved up Lieutenant Field's guns, and opened on the enemy, who showed at the Blinkwater. Ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Michell's brigade forward, and sent a squadron of the Cape Mounted Rifles and two battalions forward, directing a strong body of skirmishers to be thrown in to, and line the forest. These were immediately received by a great fire from the enemy at several points. This sharp attack drove the enemy from their position, which they evacuated and retired into Blinkwater and Waterkloof. The enemy continued to show themselves. I re-inforced the skirmishers with two Companies of the 91st, dismounted a troop of the Cape Mounted Rifles, and ordered the whole to push through the ravine and communicate with Lieut.-Col. Fordyce's brigade, and to order them through. This movement was well effected. In the meantime the enemy continued

their efforts to annoy us. Having brought the brigade through, and the enemy being beaten, and all the troops being under arms from 1 a.m., I retired to form camp at Mandell's farm, leaving one squadron, one battalion, and two guns and Royal Artillery to cover the movement. On commencing our move the enemy came out in great force, and opened a great fire, following the rear guard. The enemy were driven off. The troops encamped at Mandell's farm at 5 o'clock, after being under arms for eighteen hours."

In all the operations of the succeeding days in and around the almost inaccessible Waterkloof, the 91st Highlanders continued to render the most important services. On the 31st October a general order was issued, signed by the Quartermaster-General, A. J. Cloete, in which the Commander-in-Chief recorded his high opinion of the conspicuous gallantry and enterprise displayed on the part of the officers and soldiers. The fatigue of the operations, which continued from day to day with little intermission, was endured with that spirit that animates the soldier and leads him on to victory. Every Kafir in Kafirland and upon its Borders, believing the positions held by them to be impregnable, the enemy fought each day with most determined bravery, yielding the ground he fought on to physical force alone. Such an enemy, the order continued, could not be fought day after day without loss on our side, while that upon the enemy, from the superiority and rapidity of the firing of the troops, was known to be very great. The country recently held by Macomo's force, and comprising a mountain range of twenty square miles—a mountainous country intersected by almost impassable forests and ravines, afforded shelter for an innumerable force, protected by immense ridges and rocks, every one of which afforded a strong position. In this order His Excellency specially noticed the gallant conduct of Colonel Yarborough amongst other officers of the force. The fighting continued almost without intermission up to the 7th November, the loss to the regiment being one private killed and Ensign Ricketts and eight privates wounded. The ensign afterwards died of his wound, and was buried in the little group of graves at Fort Retief.

On the 30th December, 1851, Lieutenant

Mackenzie and one sergeant and seventy rank-and-file joined a patrol under Major Wilmot, which proceeded from Fort Peddie to the Goga, where it arrived at daylight on the following morning. The patrol lay concealed in the bush until the morning of the 1st January, and then proceeded to the Kamnegana, scouring the bush and destroying a number of huts. On entering a path lined on both sides with huts the patrol commenced to destroy them, and was vigorously opposed by the Kafirs, who commenced a heavy fire on its advance, when Major Wilmot was killed by a musket-ball fired from one of the huts. Lieutenant Mackenzie immediately assumed command of the patrol, which was between three camps occupied by the enemy, when he found it necessary to retreat to Fort Peddie, carrying Major Wilmot's body with him.

On the 26th January, 1852, a detachment of 416 of all ranks of the 91st under Lieut.-Col. Yarborough, marched from Fort Hare and was employed in destroying the enemy's crops on the Amatola mountains and Tyumie until the end of February when it proceeded to Haddon. On the 4th March the force proceeded to Waterkloof and was engaged in a combined movement against the Kafirs from daylight on that morning until evening, the casualties to the regiment being one sergeant and three privates killed, and Lieut.-Colonel Yarborough, Ensign Hibbert, three sergeants and twelve privates wounded, one of the sergeants and one private ultimately dying of their wounds. When the force was returning in the direction of the camp each regiment covered by a company in skirmishing order, that of the 91st was under Lieutenant Bond. This officer was very short-sighted and by some means or other was separated from his men and was nearer the enemy than his skirmishers. Suddenly he was attacked by two Kafirs, armed, one of whom seized him by the coat. At that time men wearing only side-arms were always told off to carry stretchers for the wounded. One of these men—John Sharkie by name—suddenly saw Lieutenant Bond in the clutches of the savages. He rushed up, struck one of them on the head with his stretcher, killing him dead, and drawing a butcher's knife which he carried in a sheath, plunged it into the throat of the other. Lieutenant Bond, who

then realised the extent of his escape, coolly adjusted his eye-glass, which he always carried, looked steadily at Sharkie, then at the Kafirs, and said, "By God, Sharkie, you're a devilish plucky fellow; I will see you are properly rewarded for this bravery;" and he kept his word. Sir Harry Smith, in writing to Earl Grey, said : "Lieut.-Colonel Yarborough, of the 91st, is a steady officer, and greatly distinguished himself on the day he was wounded;" and in reference to this occasion a Division Order dated March 5th was issued by Major-General Somerset, from which the following is an extract: "A very superior force of the enemy was attacked in his strong position ; his horses and cattle captured, and five large kraals and 150 huts of the rebel Hottentots and Kafirs fired and destroyed. The movement was most ably and gallantly conducted by Lieut.-Col. Yarborough. The attacking of so strong a position as that held by the enemy who as the alarm was sounded became greatly reinforced could not be effected without loss, but while the Major-General deeply regrets the loss of the valiant soldiers and the wounds of his gallant officers and men, he attributes the comparatively small loss to the manner in which the enemy was charged, checked, and driven back when pressing on in great force, although with every advantage of ground. The Major-General will bring the gallant conduct of the troops on this occasion under the notice of the Commander-in-Chief.

#### THE LOSS OF THE "BIRKENHEAD."

At this point in the history of the 91st Highlanders it is necessary to pass for a short time from the incidents of the Kafir war and narrate an action which furnishes one of the most glorious examples on record of the triumph and self-denial over the loss of dear life itself.

On the 7th January, 1852, the iron paddle troopship *Birkenhead*, of 1,400 tons and 556 horse-power, commanded by Master Commandant Robert Salmond, sailed from the coast of Cork, bound for the Cape of Good Hope with detachments from the depots of ten regiments, all under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Seton, of the 74th Highlanders. Altogether there were on board about 631 persons including a crew of 132, the rest being soldiers with their wives and children. Of the soldiers a

detachment under Captain Wright belonged to the 91st Highlanders. The *Birkenhead* made a fair passage out and reached Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, on the 23rd February, when Captain Salmond was ordered to proceed eastward immediately and land the troops at Algoa Bay and Buffalo River. The *Birkenhead* accordingly sailed again about six o'clock on the evening of the 25th, the night being almost perfectly calm, the sea smooth, and the stars out in the sky. Men, as usual, were told off to keep a look-out, and a lead-sman was stationed on the paddle-box next the land, which was a distance of about three miles on the port side. Shortly before two o'clock on the morning of the 26th, when all who were not on duty were sleeping peacefully below, the lead-sman got soundings in twelve or thirteen fathoms. Ere he had time to get another cast of the lead, the *Birkenhead* was suddenly and rudely arrested in her course ; she had struck on a sunken rock surrounded by deep water, and was firmly fixed upon its jagged points. The water immediately rushed into the fore part of the ship, and drowned many soldiers who were sleeping on the lower troop deck. It is easy to imagine the consternation and wild emotion with which the hundreds of men, women, and children would be seized on realising their dangerous situation. Capt Salmond, who had been in his cabin since ten o'clock of the previous night, at once appeared on deck with the other naval and military officers ; the captain ordered the engine to be stopped, the small bower anchor to be let go, the paddle-box boats to be got out, and the quarter boats to be lowered, and to lie alongside the ship. On coming on deck Lieut.-Col. Seton, of the 74th Highlanders, at once comprehended the situation, and without hesitation made up his mind what it was the duty of brave men and British soldiers to do under the circumstances. He impressed upon the other officers the necessity of preserving silence and discipline among the men. Colonel Seton then ordered the soldiers to draw up on both sides the quarter-deck ; the men obeyed as if about to undergo an inspection. A party was told off to work the pumps, another to assist the sailors in lowering the boats, and another to throw the poor horses overboard. "Every one did as he was directed," says Capt.

Wright, of the 91st ; "all received their orders, and had them carried out as if the men were embarking instead of going to the bottom ; there was only this difference, that I never saw any embarkation conducted with so little noise and confusion." Meanwhile, Captain Salmond, thinking no doubt to get the ship safely afloat again and to steam her nearer to the shore, ordered the engineer to give the paddles a few backward turns. This only hastened the destruction of the ship which again struck upon the rocks so that a great hole was torn in the bottom, letting the water rush in volumes into the engine-room, putting out the fires.

The situation was now more critical than ever but the soldiers remained quietly in their places while Colonel Seton stood in the gangway with his sword drawn, seeing the women and children safely passed down into the cutter which the captain had provided for them. This duty was speedily effected and the cutter was ordered to lie off about 150 yards from the rapidly sinking ship. In about ten minutes after she first struck she broke in two at the foremast—this mast and the funnel falling over to the starboard side, crushing many, and throwing into the water those who were endeavouring to clear the paddle box boat. But the men kept their places though many of them were mere lads who had been in the service only a few months. Besides the cutter into which the women and children had been put, only two small boats were got off, all the others having been stove in by the falling timbers or otherwise rendered useless. When the bows had broken off the ship began rapidly to sink forward, and those who remained on board clustered on to the poop at the stern, all, however, without the least disorder. At last, Capt. Salmond, seeing that nothing more could be done, advised all who could swim to jump overboard and make for the boats. But Col. Seton told the men that if they did so they would be sure to swamp the boats and send the women and children to the bottom ; he therefore asked them to keep their places and they obeyed. The *Birkenhead* was now rapidly sinking ; the officers shook hands and bade each other farewell, immediately after which the ship again broke in two abaft the mainmast, when the hundreds who had bravely stuck to their posts were plunged with the sinking wreck into the

sea. "Until the vessel disappeared," says an eye-witness, "there was not a cry or a murmur from soldiers or sailors. Those who could swim struck out for the shore, but few ever reached it ; most of them either sank through exhaustion or were devoured by the sharks, or were dashed to death on the rugged shore near Point Danger, or entangled in the death grip of the long arms of sea weed that floated thickly near the coast. About twenty minutes after the *Birkenhead* first struck on the rock, all that remained visible were a few fragments of timber and the main topmast standing above the water. Of the 631 souls on board, 438 were drowned, only 193 being saved ; not a woman or child was lost. Those who did manage to land at Point Danger were Captain Wright and seven men, and exhausted as they were they had to make their way over a rugged and barren coast for 15 miles before they reached the residence of Captain Small, by whom they were treated with the greatest kindness until taken away by H.M. steamer *Radamanthus*. Eight men of the 91st were saved in the three boats which picked up as many men as they safely could, and made for the shore, but found it impossible to land. They were therefore pulled away in the direction of Simon's Town. After a time they were descried by the coasting schooner *Lioness*, the master of which, Thomas E. Ramsden, took the wretched survivors on board, his wife doing all in her power to comfort them, distributing what spare clothes were on board amongst the many men who were almost naked. The *Lioness* made for the scene of the wreck, which she reached about half-past two in the afternoon, and picked up about 45 men who had managed to cling to the still standing mast of the *Birkenhead*. The *Lioness* as well as the *Radamanthus* took the rescued remnant to Simon's Town. The appalling circumstances of the wreck were mentioned in a general order, dated Blinkwater, March 11th, in which it was stated that Capt. Wright himself merited every encomium ; that true valour was never better exemplified than on similar awful occasions, and the bravery, gallant and soldierlike conduct with which the men had met their fate would be reported to his Grace the Commander-in-Chief. In the monument erected at Chelsea Hospital by command of Her Majesty

Queen Victoria recording the heroic constancy and unbroken discipline shown on board the *Birkenhead*, and to preserve the memory of the officers, non-commissioned officers and men who perished on that occasion, are the names, amongst others, of Sergt. Butler, Corporals Webber and Smith of the 91st Regiment, the names of 41 privates of the 91st who also perished being inscribed on brass plates adjoining. Captain Wright attributes his escape to having had in his possession a swimming belt, and a clasp knife. When the vessel sank he was carried down by the falling of the rigging, and although his jaw was broken thereby, he succeeded in cutting himself free with the knife when the buoyancy of the life belt brought him to the surface.

#### FURTHER OPERATIONS IN THE WATERKLOOF.

We may now return to the point at which we left off in the Kafir war. On January 26th, 1852, Lieuts. Rae and McKenzie, 3 sergeants, 70 rank and file, joined a patrol under Major Kyle, 45th Regiment, at Tamscha, and destroyed the whole of the crops in Seyola's country; had several skirmishes with the enemy; proceeded from thence to King William's Town, where they arrived on 29th of February, and from thence they returned to Fort Pedi. On the 10th March, 1852, a force consisting of 2 guns, 4 companies of the 74th Highlanders, 375 of all ranks of the 91st Highlanders, under Major Forbes, 150 Cape Mounted Rifles, and 200 Fingoes and Burghers, was again engaged in the Waterkloof in a combined movement, in which 10 rank and file of the 91st Regiment were wounded. In writing of these operations, the Commander-in-chief said: "Lieut.-Col. Napier moved on the 10th up the Waterkloof Valley, and on entering the narrow and difficult ground towards its head, it was evident that the enemy meditated an attack upon the rear, and Col. Napier accordingly placed the 91st Regiment, under Major Forbes, in a position to resist it. This was most effectually done after a short fight, and Col. Napier gained and maintained his position." On the 17th March, the battalion under Major Forbes proceeded from Blinkwater, *en route* to Thorn River, with Col. Napier's division, patrolling the country, capturing the enemy's cattle, and

destroying the crops. The following extracts, from a report of Col. Napier, dated "Camp, Quantie river, 8th April, 1852," gives some details of the work done by the force of which the 91st formed part: "I marched from the camp at Thomas river at 9 a.m. on the 5th inst, and encamped at the Quantie river at 4 p.m. Next morning I sent Capt. Tylden's force, the whole of the mounted Burghers and Fingoes, before daylight to scour the country between the Thomas river and the Kei, while I followed in support with the Cape Mounted Rifles, sixty of the 74th regiment 200 of the 91st regiment, and the Kat River levy, leaving Captain Robinson, R.A., with the gun and 100 of the line to take charge of the camp. At noon I perceived Captain Tylden on a hill to my front and the burghers on another to my left, who made a signal (previously agreed upon), that they saw cattle and wanted support." The cattle, however, were too far off to attempt to capture them that afternoon, and the infantry remained on the heights. The attack was resumed next day when the Kafirs were made to retreat and a great quantity of cattle, horses, and goats were captured. "The infantry, under Major Forbes," the report says, "were not engaged with the enemy, but from the judicious position the Major took up were of great use in preventing the cattle escaping from Captain Tylden." The battalion returned to Blinkwater on the 16th of May. During the greater part of July operations were carried on against the enemy in the Waterkloof region in which a detachment of the 91st formed a part of the force engaged. It was during these operations that an attack by a body of the rebels upon Elands Post was gallantly repulsed by a small detachment of the 91st under Captain Wright (the survivor of the *Birkenhead*). The enemy appeared in considerable force, and manoeuvred with all the skill of disciplined soldiers, extending, advancing, and retiring by sound of bugle. After endeavouring almost successfully to draw the little garrison into an ambuscade, they sounded the "close" and the "advance" and moved on to the fort. Captain Wright with only 23 men of the 91st then marched out to meet them and being joined by a party of the Kat River levy, drove them off with loss. The strength of the enemy was computed at 130

mounted and 200 on foot. On the 30th July the battalion marched from Blinkwater under Major Forbes on an expedition, which lasted during a great part of August across the Kei to capture cattle from the Chief Kreli. The expedition was very successful, having captured many thousand head of cattle. The battalion returned to Blinkwater on August 30th.

On the 14th September the battalion under Major Forbes marched from Blinkwater to unite with a force with His Excellency General Cathcart to expel the Kafirs and rebel Hottentots from the Waterkloof. The force consisting of four guns and 3,000 troops, having been concentrated in the neighbourhood of the Waterkloof were so posted as to command every accessible outlet from the scene of the intended operations which consisted of an irregular hollow of several miles in extent, nearly surrounded by precipitous mountains, the bases of which, as well as the greater part of the interior basin, were densely wooded. The arduous nature of the duty imposed upon the troops in dislodging such an enemy from such a position may thus be faintly imagined. Four companies of the 91st and Cape Mounted Rifles were posted on the northern heights of the Waterkloof, while another detachment of the regiment and some irregulars from Blinkwater were to move up the Fuller's Hoek ridge; other troops were judiciously posted all around the central positions of the enemy. The dispositions having been completed, the several columns moved upon the fastnesses they were to clear at daylight on the 15th. An order issued by General Cathcart says: "The operations of that and the following day were conducted with unabated vigour and great judgment by the officers in command. The troops bivouacked each night on the ground of their operations, and pursued on the following day with an alacrity which cannot be too highly commended, the arduous task of searching for and clearing the forests and krantzes of the enemy. These appeared to be panic-stricken, offering little resistance, but endeavouring to conceal themselves in the caverns and crevices of the wooded hills, where many of them were killed. The result of the three day's operations have been the evacuation of the Waterkloof and other fastnesses by the Tambookie chief Quashe and the Gaika chief Macomo and his adherents,

and the expulsion and destruction of the Hottentot marauders." Among those specially mentioned by the Commander-in-Chief was Major Forbes, of the 91st.

The battalion returned to Blinkwater on the 20th September, where it stayed until the 27th, when it proceeded to Fort Fordyce, sending out detachments to the Waterkloof, Post Retief and various other posts. The headquarters remained at Fort Fordyce till the 10th November, 1853, when it marched to garrison Fort Beaufort, where it remained till July, 1855, sending out detachments regularly to occupy various frontier posts.

#### THE RESERVE BATTALION ORDERED HOME.

On July 6th, 1855, the battalion marched under command of Major Wright from Fort Beaufort, *en route* for embarkation at Port Elizabeth, having been ordered home after a stay of thirteen years in the colony. Previous to its march the commander of the forces issued the following highly complimentary general order: "The reserve battalion 91st Argyll Highlanders is ordered to return home with every prospect of being speedily employed in the Crimea. The Commander of the Forces cannot permit the regiment to depart from South Africa, where it has so highly distinguished itself during a period of nearly twenty years, including the Kafir wars of 1846-7, 1850, 1851, 1852, and 1853, without expressing his reluctance at losing a corps from under his command which has served in this colony with so much credit and gallantry, and which has rendered such essential benefit to the frontier districts by the numerous roads which have been made by it. The Commander of the Forces, although not having had the honour of serving with the 91st Regiment during the late war, parts with these valiant soldiers with regret, and he wishes Major Wright (whom he has found a valuable officer) and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers all happiness and success in whatever part of the world they may be called upon to serve their Queen and country. Signed. E. S. SMYTH, Deputy Adjutant-General."

The inhabitants of Fort Beaufort also took leave of the battalion with expressions of the most sincere friendship, and presented the following

address.—“ To Major Wright, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 91st Regiment,—We, the undersigned, inhabitants of Fort Beaufort, impressed with a sense of the efficient services you have rendered to this frontier during your protracted residence amongst us cannot allow you to leave this place without expressing our regret at your being removed. The harassing and extremely arduous duties imposed upon you during the last two most obstinate and determined wars which have vexed this country, and the intrepid and inflexible manner in which those duties have invariably been performed by your brave regiment, have been such as will ever lead us to refer to them with feelings of extreme gratitude. We would also especially refer with thankfulness to the very great kindness and consideration evinced by your regiment in providing for the safety of our wives and families by voluntarily relinquishing all your quarters to be appropriated as a place of refuge for them at a period when this town was threatened with a combined attack by our traitorous enemies. These and many other benevolent acts to which it would be needless for us to more especially allude and which are too numerous to be embodied in this brief address, induce us to tender you our warmest acknowledgements, and trust that Divine Providence may protect you and your gallant regiment wherever duty may call you. We beg to subscribe ourselves, &c., &c., [signed by nearly all the inhabitants of Fort Beaufort.]

In replying to this address Major Wright returned sincere thanks for the honour done the regiment. He stated that it was about fifteen years since the 91st regiment first made its appearance in Fort Beaufort, and it was no slight gratification to find that all their exertions had been appreciated and acknowledged in so grateful a manner. He trusted the day was far distant when their peaceful occupations would be again interrupted by their border neighbours; and the 21st regiment which was now leaving would always be glad to hear of the welfare and prosperity of the inhabitants of Fort Beaufort, amongst whom they had passed so many pleasant years of their lives.

In marching through Graham's Town the battalion received a perfect ovation from the inhabitants and from the other regiments sta-

tioned there. About the middle of the pass which leads out of the town a sumptuous luncheon had been prepared for officers and men by the inhabitants; before partaking of which, however, the regiment was presented with an address in the name of the inhabitants. This was presented by Mr. G. Wood and Mr. R. Godlon-ton, members of the Legislative Council, and it expressed the high sense entertained of the services of the regiment, and stating that the protracted detention of the regiment in this colony and the eventful occurrences of that period had enabled the inhabitants to observe its high character both in times of peace and in times of war, also that they felt a lively interest in the future of the regiment. Knowing as they did that the regiment was officered by gentlemen of the highest military qualifications, and that the men whom they commanded were conspicuous for their orderly and soldierly conduct, they felt assured that in whatever portion of the globe their services might be required, their deeds would add lustre to Her Majesty's Crown, and the country over which she reigned. In conclusion they wished the regiment a prosperous voyage. Loud cheers having been given, Major Wright in reply, acknowledged the high compliment which he knew was both deserved and appreciated by the regiment. This reply was received with another outburst of hearty cheers by the assembled civilians. From their long and arduous service the regiment had become so identified with the frontier, that in parting with men with whom they were so familiar, the people among whom they had so long dwelt felt that they were bidding farewell to friends as well as defenders. That this feeling was reciprocated may be inferred from the fact that a number of the men who had obtained their discharge, remained to cast in their lot amongst the colonists there. Those who returned did not number more than 294 men, and more would have remained had it not been for that gallant spirit which led so many to return in expectation of confronting the enemy in the Crimea.

#### EMBARKATION FOR HOME.

The 91st embarked at Port Elizabeth on board the *Penelope*, which sailed the same evening, 30th July. The vessel touched at Simon's Bay to coal on the first five days o

August, arrived at Ascension to coal on the 23rd and 24th, delayed at Madeira on the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th September, and arrived at Portsmouth on 29th September. There orders were received for the battalion to proceed to Sheerness, and it finally disembarked at Chatham on the 29th September.

#### REDISTRIBUTION OF THE REGIMENT.

On the 10th November a letter was received from the Horse Guards directing a redistribution of the regiment into six service and six depot companies, each of sixty rank-and-file, besides officers and non-commissioned officers, the term "reserve battalion" being thenceforth discontinued, though practically the battalion seems to have lasted till 1857, when the depot companies of the two battalions were incorporated.

In January, 1856, the command of the depot company was resumed by Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Bertie Gordon, who had arrived from Greece for this purpose, having resigned that of the several companies at the Piræus to Major Paterson.

#### PRESENTATION OF MEDALS AND CHANGE OF UNIFORM.

On Good Friday, 21st March, 1856, and again on the 27th of the same month the six companies were formed on parade in the square of Chatham Barracks in review order, when 91 and 151 medals were presented to the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers who had served in the Kafir wars in 1846, 1847, 1850, 1851 and 1852. The officers received their medals in the preceding November.

On April 8th a circular was received from Horse Guards, announcing that the scarlet tunic was to be single instead of double-breasted.

#### REVIEW BY THE QUEEN.

On the 4th April, 1856 the depot companies as the reserve battalion was now called left Chatham for Aldershot under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon and took up their quarters in the "M" lines, North Camp. On the 19th June and 20th April the troops in camp, including the 91st, were reviewed by Her Majesty. The troops were reviewed from 4 to 8 o'clock p.m. Her Majesty and the Princess

Royal were on horseback, and the Queen wore a scarlet tunic with the ribbon of the garter. The German Legion was on the ground for the first time, and the whole of the division marched past Her Majesty. On June 16th the Queen visited the lines of the 91st. The Royal carriage stopped in the centre of the 91st lines where Her Majesty alighted and entered one of the soldier's huts. The Queen walked quite through the hut and asked questions of Lieut.-Colonel Gordon and made observations indicating Her Majesty's gracious satisfaction. After leaving this hut which belonged to No. 2 Company (Captain Lane's), the Queen signified her desire to see the cookhouse which she entered, expressing her praise of its cleanliness and order, and of the excellence of the soup. The Queen then re-entered her carriage and proceeded at a foot pace through the other portion of the lines, Lieut.-Colonel Gordon walking by the side of Her Majesty and pointing out various other excellent arrangements. After the Queen had departed the soldiers visited the hut and surveyed it with interest. The following inscription was afterwards placed on the front door of the hut (No. 6, M lines North Camp), "Her Most Gracious Majesty the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice visited the lines of Her Majesty's faithful soldiers of the 91st Argyll Highlanders and deigned to enter this hut, 16th June, 1856." On the door in the private street there is also an inscription commencing,—

"Henceforth this hut shall be a sacred place,  
And its rude floor an altar, for 'twas trod  
By footsteps which her soldiers fain would  
trace."

Orders were afterwards issued to the troops in camp at Aldershot by direction of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, calling attention to the manner in which the lines of the 91st camp was kept, and desiring that the same order and the same efforts to procure occupation and amusement for the soldiers might be made by other regiments. The strictest order was also issued to the Barrack Department to maintain the inscription on the "Queen's Hut," as it is called.

On the 7th July the Lieutenant-General commanding made an unexpected visit of inspec-

tion of the lines of the regiment. Lieutenant-General Knollys expressed himself satisfied in the highest degree with the order of the lines, and with the companies' huts, as also with the works completed by the depot to give amusement to the men. On the same day Lieut.-Col. Gordon received orders to be ready to proceed to Berwick-on-Tweed early on the following morning, and on the same evening the Queen without warning again passed down through the lines of the 91st, the royal carriage stopping opposite the door of the hut previously visited by Her Majesty, who read the inscription which had been placed over the door. On the morning of July 8th the companies of the 91st left Aldershot for Berwick, stopping at Peterborough and York, at both of which places they billeted and reaching Berwick on the 10th. In 1827 the depot of the regiment was moved here from its Irish quarters under command of Major Fraser, the only officer belonging to the regiment at the time who was with the regiment then under Colonel Campbell.

In August, 1856, a guard of honour was furnished by the depot at the Berwick railway station to receive Her Majesty on the royal progress to and from Balmoral.

On January 26th, 1857, Lieut-General Sir Harry Smith inspected the depot companies and addressed Lieut.-Col. Gordon and the battalion in a speech which was highly complimentary. The depot companies remained in Berwick till the 3rd March when they proceeded by train to Preston, almost the entire population of Berwick accompanying the depot to the railway station. The Mayor and Sheriff had previously expressed to Lieut.-Col. Rawstorne the general respect with which the conduct of all ranks had inspired the citizens and the general regret which was felt at the removal of the 91st. On arrival at Preston 2 sergeants, 1 drummer, and 81 rank and file were discharged, reducing the four companies to 21 sergeants and 206 rank and file, two companies having on the 20th March embarked in the *Minna* transport to join the service companies at Corfu. On the 30th March, 1857, the remains of the depot companies were incorporated with the depot battalion at Preston, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, C.B., while under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstorne.

At this point the history of the Reserve Battalion closes.

#### MOVEMENTS OF THE FIRST BATTALION.

Having given a somewhat detailed account of the eventful history of the reserve battalion from its formation to its absorption in the depot companies under the new redistribution of the regiment, we must now return to the 1st Battalion which we left at Gosport in May, 1848. In October of that year Lieut.-Colonel Lindsay retired from the service, when the command of the 1st Battalion devolved upon Lieut.-Colonel Yarborough. In January, 1849, Lieut.-Colonel Campbell joined from the Reserve Battalion and took command of the 1st; Lieut.-Colonel Yarborough being promoted and sent out to the Reserve Battalion in the February of that year. In August, 1849, the band of the regiment, in conjunction with the band of the 24th and 77th Regiments, took part in a serenade to their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duchess of Mecklenburgh-Strelitz, when on a visit to the Lieut.-Governor at Portsmouth.

The anniversary of the battle of Roleia was celebrated by the regiment on the 19th August, and that of Vimiero on the 21st of that month. On the 26th September the battalion engaged with the rest of the troops at Portsmouth in holding a fast day appointed to be kept on account of the cholera, from which the battalion was mercifully preserved. The records of that period show that the 91st got up liberal subscriptions for the wives and families of those of the soldiers in garrison who had been carried off by the fearful epidemic.

The regiment remained at Gosport till April, 1850, when it proceeded to Dover in three Divisions, on the 4th, 6th, and 9th of that month; headquarters, under Lieut.-Col. Campbell, occupying the Height Barracks, other companies being located in the Castle. After the arrival of the regiment at this place, it was inspected by Major-General G. Brown, C.B., K.H., Adjutant-General to the Forces, who ordered the immediate abolition of the bagpipes which had been fondly clung to as the last relic that remained of the origin, the history, and the nationality of the corps.

The 91st did not stay long at Dover. Having received orders to move to the Northern-

district, it proceeded by detachments in the end of December, 1850 and beginning of January, 1851, to Preston, Liverpool, and Manchester, moving about those three towns for the next few months, the grenadier company under Captain Bayley being sent to the Isle of Man. After about six months duty in the northern district the regiment proceeded to Fleetwood and embarked in detachments on the 22nd and 24th July for Belfast, whence a draft of one sergeant and 60 rank and file proceeded to Cork on the 26th December, and embarked on board the ill-fated *Birkenhead* on January 7th, 1852, to join the reserve battalion at the Cape of Good Hope.

The stay of the regiment at Belfast was comparatively short; but during that time the officers and men won the respect and attachment of the inhabitants for their excellent behaviour, their kindness and their liberality to charitable institutions. On the occasion of the regiment leaving Belfast, an address signed by the Mayor, the Earl of Belfast, and about 200 of the leading citizens was presented to Lieut-Colonel Campbell, and the other officers, expressive of their gratitude and esteem for the "high-toned, gentlemanly conduct of the officers, and the soldier-like and exemplary conduct of the men."

Between the 26th April and the 3rd May, the regiment marched in detachments to Enniskillen, where it was to be stationed. On several occasions during its stay at Enniskillen the 91st had to perform the delicate and not very agreeable duty of aiding the civil powers to maintain order at elections. This duty the regiment always performed with admirable promptness, great tact, and excellent effect.

On the 6th August, 1852, Lieutenant Norman performed the feat of marching in marching order clothed and accoutred as an infantry soldier from Enniskillen to Ballyshannon in 8 hours without previous training. The distance was  $27\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and Lieutenant Norman won his match with fifteen minutes to spare. On the 2nd September Major Bertie Gordon performed his match of going on foot from Enniskillen to Ballyshannon and back, a distance of  $55\frac{1}{2}$  miles in twelve hours, without training. He won the match with 27 minutes to spare.

On September 27th, the regiment went in mourning for the Duke of Wellington on receipt of a General Order which was read on parade, all ranks parading with black crape, and the regimental colours covered with black crape.

On the 8th of October Captain Wright was gazetted to receive £100 a year pension for his conduct on the occasion of the loss of the *Birkenhead*.

On November 11th Captain Cochrane, three officers, one colour-surgeon, one corporal, and two privates proceeded to London to represent the regiment at the funeral of the Duke of Wellington. On the 17th of that month they assembled at Chelsea Hospital, and marched past the body of their late Commander lying in state.

On the 4th of December one hundred stands of new Minnie rifled muskets were received by the battalion, and on the 5th of the following April the regiment received another fifty stands of similar weapons.

The 91st remained at Enniskillen until the month of March, 1853, when between the 19th and 30th of that month it marched in detachments to Dublin and was there quartered in Richmond Barracks. The various inspections of the 91st while in Ireland were highly creditable.

After a years stay in Dublin the 91st left that city by railway in detachments for Cork and out stations between the 25th April and the 1st May, 1854; detachments being sent from head-quarters to Spike Island, Haulbowline, Island and Carlisle Fort. The regiment, although as a body it did not take part in the Crimean war, liberally furnished volunteers to the three Highland regiments that had so distinguished a part in that contest, and also to the 50th regiment. In this way it parted with about 250 of its best men.

On the 23rd of June Lieut.-Colonel J. F. G. Campbell was promoted to the rank of Colonel. He became Major-General in November, 1860.

#### EMBARKATION FOR MALTA.

After but short stay at Cork the regiment embarked on the 15th December, 1854, under command of Colonel Campbell, on board H.M.S. *Saint George*, en route for Malta. On the morning of the 1st January, 1855, this old-fashioned three-decker was ten miles off shore, but by evening all danger had passed away.

Capt. Eyres, however, informed Major Gordon that had they not made the offing they did he intended to have landed him on the nearest point on the coast in order to make the best of his way to Algiers and get a steamer sent to their assistance. On the 9th of January the *St. George* was taken in tow by the *Malacca* until 4 a.m. on the morning of the 10th, when the island of Gozo was sighted, and anchor was cast in the harbour of Valetta on January 11th. Besides 26 officers and staff, the strength of the regiment, as it landed at Malta, was 649 non-commissioned officers and privates, 89 women, and 51 children.

#### THE REGIMENT IN GREECE.

The 91st only remained in Malta for two months. On the 20th of March it embarked on board the *Emeu* steamer, and sailed for the Piraeus, in Greece, which it reached on the 23rd of that month. The battalion landed during the afternoon in the boats of H.M.S. *Fury* and those of the French squadron, the horses of the mounted officers being swum ashore. The regiment encamped on the racecourse about a mile from the town, and afterwards took up its quarters in the miserable warehouses that had formed the barracks of the 3rd Buffs. Colonel Straubenzee, of the 3rd Regiment, handed over the command of the British force in Greece to Colonel Campbell, who also retained the command of the regiment, but this latter was handed over on the 3rd June to Major Bertie Gordon. The French Admiral le Barbier de Tinan, whose flag was carried by the *Gomez* steam frigate, commanded the whole of the allied land forces, which, in addition to the 91st, consisted of two battalions of French marine infantry and a few Gendarmes.

On September 14th, 1855, the allied British and French forces were formed in line along the quay at the Piraeus to commemorate the fall of Sebastopol, which took place on the 8th of that month. The 91st, in review order, with the colours, occupied the right of the line, and on the left were the French marine infantry. The English and French ships in harbour, having dressed colours, a royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and the French troops afterwards fired with a half-battery of field-pieces a salute

of 101 guns. The celebration of this important event was terminated by Lieut.-Col. Superieur de Vassoin marching at the head of his regiments past the 91st, which remained in line with shouldered arms, each half company of the French cheering as it passed in front of the line.

On the 26th September, the French *sous officiers* invited the sergeants of the 91st to dinner, which was attended by Sergeant-Major Stewart and 31 sergeants. The guests were conveyed on board the *Gomes* on steam tenders. This entertainment was given in return to a similar compliment that had been paid to the *sous officiers* of the *Gomes* by the 91st on the 11th of that month. A special honour was done to this reception of the sergeants by the attendance of His Excellency M. Mercier, the French Minister, and the Vice-Admiral commanding the Naval division in the Levant, who both made speeches to the assembled guests. L' Admiral Jacquinot, in a letter through Captain Rose, the chief of the staff, wrote as follows : "Dans la fête toute fraternelle qui les réunissait hier, L' Admiral Jacquinot s'en estime heureux de se trouver aupres de braves gens qu'il honore et de donner un témoignage de la haute considération qu'il professe pour la nation Anglaise et en particulier pour les sergents du 91me régiment." On the 28th September, the band of the 91st played in a battalion of the French marine infantry from their camp at Daphne.

During the month of October, on a report that a French officer had been carried off into the mountains by Greek brigands, large parties of the French, and two companies of the 91st were sent out in pursuit in the direction of Phalerum Bay, and towards the base of the Hymettus range. After laborious toil over the rocks of Munychium, the patrol was fruitless, and the officer was restored by the brigands on the 7th October on the payment of a ransom of 1,000 sovereigns in English gold. This amount was paid by the Greek Treasury. Apprehensive of further acts of brigandage, two pickets were established about a mile from the town on the old and new road to Athens, these outposts being relieved by English and French troops alternately.

On the 7th December the regiment brigaded with the 1st and 3rd French marine battalions for manoeuvring on the plain near the Acropolis of Athens. The 91st had the right of the line. After the manoeuvres, the regiment having piled arms and packs, went up to the Acropolis, where the men dispersed themselves over the old buildings and surveyed those remains. Many of the soldiers mounted to the summit of the Parthenon, and great interest was excited when Mars Hill and the spot from whence St. Paul addressed the court of the Areopagus were seen.

On the 10th November, 1855, a Horse Guards order directed that the division of the regiment into first and second battalions should cease from that date.

In 1856, the regiment brigaded a second time with the two battalions of French marine infantry and took part in a field day representing the battle of Islay in Algeria, for which purpose a plan was furnished by the French rear-admiral, Count E. Bonet Willaumez, K.C.B., commanding the expeditionary force in Greece.

On February 11th 1857, at a general parade of the allied forces the French admiral, in taking leave, addressed the regiment as follows : " officers and soldiers of the 91st, the time is near when we must part, and I now offer you my sincere thanks for your admirable discipline and for your hearty support. In Greece just as in the Black Sea or before Sebastopol the English and French troops have proved the firmness of their alliance in the midst of circumstances of the gravest nature. A cheer them for the united troops and old England."

On February 26th, His Excellency the right hon. Thomas Wyse, C.B., Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Athens reviewed the regiment and paid it a high compliment, mentioning especially that during the occupation with the French of a country for nearly three years to which they were not invited and yet not the territory of an enemy, they had exhibited qualities of firmness and circumspection in their difficult and delicate position. Mutual good will had existed between them and the inhabitants, and he was sure that the remembrance of their stay with the French would be one of harmony and good feeling. The occupation of Greece was, indeed, an example in the history

of occupations. It was an instructive example and a good lesson to all within its influence.

During the stay of the 91st in Greece the men were engaged in operations which were of the highest benefit to the district in which they were engaged. In consequence of the defective accommodation allotted to the regiment a spot was selected at Salamis Bay, about three miles from the Piraeus on a slope close to the sea, for the construction of a camp, in which a detachment of the regiment might take up its quarters, and thus remedy to some extent the stinted accommodation provided in the town. To this place the grenadiers and No. 1 company marched on the 4th April, 1856, and commenced a system of road-making, throwing up field works, the construction of a small landing place, and other works which employed and interested both officers and men. Thus the little camp soon became a cheerful and accessible spot. The only difficulty that the men had to encounter was the want of tools, of which the supply from headquarters was very stinted indeed, consisting of three spades and three pick-axes. An additional supply however was obtained from the Greek authorities. An ancient well which may have watered part of the fleet of Xerxes was at the bottom of the hill, and furnished excellent water. Detachments were sent to this camp at intervals in rotation, and occasionally a detachment was taken a considerable distance from camp, sometimes sleeping out all night on extemporised couches of heath and branches arranged round the bivouac fires. On the 15th June another encampment was formed at a spot selected near the monastery of Pentelicus on Mount Pentelicus, nine miles from Athens, to which detachments were also sent in regular rotation.

In September, 1855, Major Gordon was promoted to the rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel. Among other useful works done by the regiment while in Greece should be mentioned the reconstruction and elevation of the whole surface level of the wide projecting quay which formed the parade of the battalion, also the raising, draining and levelling of the roadways of the streets in which the barracks of the battalion were situated. On the 28th Dec. Lieut.-Col. Gordon went home to take command of the six depot companies, when the

command of the service companies devolved upon Major W. T. L. Patterson, who had recently been promoted from captain.

During its stay in Greece the regiment had to deplore the loss of one officer, Paymaster Dalrymple, who was killed on the 12th June, 1856, by the accidental falling of his house. His grave, together with those of nineteen non-commissioned officers and men who had died at various periods during the two years' occupation of the country, were marked by marble slabs and mounds, and were situated in the plain just outside the town of Piræus, to the right of the road to Athens. Their graves were committed to the care of the local authorities.

#### THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

The 91st embarked in two divisions on the 28th February, 1857, for the Ionian Islands, and at ten minutes before nine o'clock the evacuation of Greece by the allied forces was complete. The regiment was stationed in the Ionian Islands for the next eighteen months, detachments being located in Corfu, Zante, and Cephalonia. Here also the regiment was employed in the construction of useful works. Among these was an approach from the esplanade at Argostoli, in Cephalonia, in the shape of steps upon a large scale formed from the materials of a useless five-gun battery. This work, described by the Resident of Cephalonia as a "great public improvement," obtained the appellation of "The Argyll Steps."

Lieut.-Col. Gordon arrived in Corfu in April, 1857. In taking leave of the head-quarter companies on the 17th August, they having been ordered from Corfu to the Southern Islands, Major General Sir George Buller, C.B., told them "he had selected the 91st for the service of the Southern Islands because it was a more formed regiment, a finer body of men, and better drilled than the others."

#### THE 91ST IN INDIA.

The 91st having received orders to proceed to India by the overland route, embarked at Corfu, and sailed on the 5th September, 1868, arriving at Alexandria on the 8th. On the 18th the head-quarters, with 5½ companies, disembarked from H.M.S. *Perseverance*, and took train at Kaffr Ziyat—at which point the

Nile is crossed in a steamer—and at 2 a.m. on the 19th, they arrived at No. 13 station in the desert. From thence the train proceeded ten miles further to where the railway then terminated. Here donkeys were in readiness to convey the troops across the 17 miles of desert to Suez. The donkeys were drawn up in sections of 30, rank entire, and as soon as mounted were caused to move off, having an interval of about 30 yards between sections, and 100 yards between companies; and in this order proceeded at the steady pace of about four miles an hour. The left wing disembarked on the following day and proceeded to Suez in a similar manner, the 91st being the first regiment to cross by this route. The two wings embarked at Suez on board two vessels which arrived at Bombay on the 7th and 9th October respectively. On the arrival of the left wing at Aden on the 28th September, when there was a detention of three days to coal, the ship was almost uninhabitable on account of the great heat and the crowded state of the decks. The troops were, therefore, landed, and found shelter in a spare hospital ward, re-embarking on the 1st October. Both detachments were re-united at Poonah on the 11th October.

Colonel Campbell, C.B., having been appointed to the command of a brigade at Tonghoo, in Burmah, Major Patterson assumed command of the regiment on October 21st, 1858.

On November 3rd, the 91st commenced its march to Kamptee, where it arrived on the 11th of the following month. On its march, while at Jafferahead, on November 20th, an order was received by telegraph from the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras army to leave a wing at Taulnah. The left wing, under command of Major Savage, accordingly returned to that place, and did not arrive at head-quarters until the 25th February, 1859. It had been employed during the latter part of January and the beginning of February in operations against the insurgent Rohillas to the South of Taulnah, and had made long marches without, however, being engaged with the enemy.

On the 7th March Lieut.-Colonel Gordon arrived from England and assumed the command, and on the 9th a small detachment

under Lieutenant Gurney proceeded to Chindwarrah, a village about 84 miles north of Kamptee. On the same day No. 5 company under Captain Battiscombe, marched as part of a field force directed on Mooltye and Baitool. The services of this force were supposed to be necessary owing to the report that the rebel Sepoy leader was in the neighbourhood; his rapid marches and constant incursions round and about the valley of Nerbudda, giving great cause for alarm.

On the 27th of the month Major Patterson, joined and took command of the field force, which remained out till the 18th April. A similar field force was sent out on April 22nd for a short time to the same districts.

On the 7th November, 1859, No. 1 company joined the irregular forces, the services of which were required to disperse a band of marauders which had for some time held defined positions in the hills between Chindwarrah and the Nerbudda River. These marauders were dispersed and their strongholds taken.

The first officer of the regiment who died in India was Lieut. Obbard, who was attacked by cholera, and expired on the 24th April, 1860, at Oomerapore. Some strong drafts arrived for the regiment in January and October of this year.

In March, 1861, the wives and families of the non-commissioned officers and men arrived at headquarters. On 28th August Ensign Roberts met an awful death through falling into a well at night, he having in the darkness mistook his way. We should not omit mentioning that in the regimental orders of February, 1861, great praise was given by the commanding officer to two young soldiers of the draft—privates J. Yorke and Robert Carson—for their devoted attention to the cholera patients of the draft that had joined the regiment. They were at their posts night and day. The gallant conduct of private Griffin was also mentioned in orders for his plucky attempt to save the life of a comrade who was drowned whilst bathing in a large tank. In August this year Lieut.-Col. Gordon was promoted to be Colonel by brevet. He had succeeded to the command of the regiment in November, 1860, on the promotion of Lieut.-Col. Campbell to the rank of Major General.

There had been for some time in accordance with the regulations for the augmentation of the Indian establishment two Lieut.-Colonels to the 91st, Major W. T. L. Patterson having been raised to that rank on the retirement of Col. Campbell. On the 1st November, 1861, Quartermaster Paterson took his final leave of the regiment which as a private he had joined in 1832, and from which he had never been absent from that date. He was with it in St. Helena, Africa, Greece, the Ionian Islands, and India, from which latter place he left as an invalid.

On the 22nd Jan., 1862, the regiment went into mourning on account of the death of H.R.H. the Prince Consort. On the 24th April Col. Gordon proceeded on leave to England.

In February, 1863, the 91st left Kamptee for Jubbulpoor, which it reached on the 19th after a march of 15 days. The regiment was now in the Bengal Presidency and under the command of General Sir Hugh Rose, G.C.B., then Commander-in-Chief in India.

One of the chief events of the year 1864 was the restoration to the regiment of its original Highland designation, along with the Highland dress, the tartan trews, however, taking the place of their original kilt. A powerful and willing supporter in this matter was found in his Grace the Duke of Argyll, who was naturally anxious to have the regiment raised by his ancestors once more recognised by its original name—"The Argyllshire Highlanders." The restoration of the designation and dress, of which the regiment had been deprived 50 years before, was notified in the following War Office memorandum :—

"War Office, Pall Mall, May 8.

"Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the 91st Foot resuming the appellation of the 91st Argyllshire Highlanders, and being clothed and equipped as a non-kilted Highland corps, as follows :—Tunic, as worn in all Highland regiments; Trews, of the Campbell tartan; Chaco, blue cloth, with diced band and black braid; Forage Cap, Kilmarnock, with diced band. The officers to wear plaids and claymore. The alteration of the dress is to take place from the 1st April, 1865. The white

waistcoat with sleeves issued to other Highland regiments will not be worn by the 91st Foot."

In 1864 the first regimental annual dinner took place on the 7th June, and was presided over by General Hay, Colonel of the 91st. A benevolent Club Fund at the same time became an institution of the regiment, in aid of anyone once connected with it.

In January, 1866, Colonel Gordon arrived at Jubbulpore, and assumed command of the regiment. In August and September the regiment was commanded by Major Penton. In December of the same year the 91st left its quarters at this place and proceeded, partly on foot and partly by train, to Dumdum, which it reached on the 11th. On the 15th October the command of the regiment was handed over to Major Battiscombe.

After staying a year at Dumdum the 91st was removed in January to Hazaarebagh. In November Colonel W. T. L. Patterson rejoined, and took command of the regiment. On December 1st, the regiment set out again for Kamptee, which it reached after a long and tedious journey, partly on foot and partly by train, on January 26th, 1868. On the 2nd April Colonel Patterson assumed command of the Nagpore force, the command of the regiment devolving on Capt. Squiri, from whom it was taken by Major Battiscombe on the 12th October.

#### RETURN TO ENGLAND.

After a stay of a few months at Kamptee the 91st got the welcome route for home, setting out in two detachments on the 7th and 8th October for Bombay. The regiment disembarked at Suez and proceeded by rail to Alexandria, where it embarked on the 30th October, and arrived at Portsmouth on November 13th, disembarking on the 15th, and proceeding by rail to Dover, where Col. Gordon resumed command. Thus after fourteen years' foreign service, the 91st were again stationed on English soil. The depot companies removed from Fort George, and were amalgamated with the service companies on November 25th. In August, of this year, the name of Col. Bertie

Gordon was placed on the list of officers receiving the reward of £100 a-year for distinguished service. The dress of the regiment was now ordered to be as follows: A blue patrol jacket, to replace the red shell jacket hitherto worn by the officers as undress; and a red serge frock of the Stuart pattern as worn by the other ranks in lieu of the old red shell jacket.

#### PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS.

On the 24th August 1869, new colours were presented to the regiment on the glacis of the Western Heights, Dover. As the Duke and Duchess of Argyll were unable to be present the colours were presented by Mrs. Bertie Gordon as her Grace's representative. The Archbishop of Canterbury consecrated the colours being assisted by five other clergymen in full canonicals. After an impressive prayer by his grace the Archbishop, the colours were received by Mrs. Gordon at the hands of Major Penton and Major Sprot, and by her given to Ensigns Lloyd and Gurney. The old colours having been gladly accepted by the Duke of Argyll, were in the month of October taken by an escort to Inverary Castle and placed in the great hall. It might be here mentioned that in October, 1848, Col. Gordon received from the daughters of the late Lieut.-Col. Lindsay the old colours of the 91st, which had seen many a hard-fought field, as already narrated. These colours were sent to Ellon Castle, Aberdeenshire.

On the 11th November, 1869, Col. Gordon retired from the regiment, handing over the command to Major Sprot. Col. Gordon did not long survive his severance from the regiment. He died on the 27th July, 1870.

Major Sprot succeeded to the Lieutenant-colonelcy of the regiment on the 29th January, 1870. Captain Wood succeeded to the vacant majority, Lieut. Alison to the company, and Ensign Chater to the lieutenancy and adjutancy, in which latter capacity he had acted for one year.

On the 1st of January, 1870, a new valise equipment was issued to the regiment. On the 31st of March all the depot battalions having been broken, the depot of the 74th Highlanders joined the 91st. The depots which joined the

regiment at various times may here be given :— After the 74th Highlanders joined at Dover, the 71st Highlanders joined at Fort George from October 31st, 1871, to 31st March, 1873 ; the 72nd Highlanders joined at Fort George from October 18, 1871, to July 28, 1873 ; the 93rd Highlanders from the 19th of November, 1872, to 1st April, 1873 ; 73rd Regiment at Edinburgh, from the 12th of May, 1873, till September, 1873 ; the 83rd Regiment at Newry, from the 4th July, 1874, till the 22nd March, 1875. About this time (the early part of 1870) a committee, of which Major-General Russell, C.B., was president, sat to revise the evolution of the army. The regiments at Dover learned to execute the new movements, as they were produced.

#### THE REGIMENT AT ALDERSHOT.

On the 18th June, 1870, the regiment proceeded from Dover to Aldershot, marching the greater part of the way, reaching the camp on the morning of the 25th. Notwithstanding the excessive heat of the weather, and that the men marched fully accoutred, the column came in each day to its halting place with the greatest regularity, a compact body of men without a single straggler. On arrival the companies of the regiment were entertained by the companies of the 1st battalion 4th King's Own regiment. The regiment remained in tents during the summer, and moved into huts in G, H and D lines in the camp on the 1st September.

#### THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS LOUISE.

On the announcement that a marriage was to take place between the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, Lieut.-Col. Sprot wrote to the Duke of Argyll, offering to send a detachment of the regiment to form a guard of honour at the wedding. The Duke replied very graciously, and only a few days before the wedding was to take place, Colonel Sprot learned that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to order that a detachment of the 91st should attend at Windsor on the day of the marriage, March 21st, 1871.

On Saturday morning, 17th March, a body of 100 picked men, with band, pipers, and full complement of officers, left the camp under

command of Captain Gregg, and marched by Bagshot and Ascot Heath, reaching Windsor at 4 p.m. On arrival the officers were entertained by the officers of the Grenadier Guards ; and the soldiers of that regiment had not only drawn rations and fitted beds, but had even cooked dinners for the Highlanders. On Monday, the 20th, Lieutenant-Colonel Sprot received her Majesty's command to meet her in the private apartments of the Castle, where she would be prepared to receive the wedding present for her daughter, which the officers and men of the 91st intended to give. The gift of the officers consisted of a brooch, the fac-simile of that worn by them to fasten their plaids, but in pure gold, and with a very handsome cairngorm pebble set transparently, together with a copy in miniature of the regimental dirk, in Scotch pebble, suited for a shawl pin. On the back of the brooch were engraved the names of all the officers then serving. The gift of the soldiers, to which they unanimously subscribed, was a silver Biscuit Box, in the shape of one of their own drums, with the honours of the regiment engraved on the side and an appropriate inscription on the head. It was mounted on a stand of Scotch bog oak, with silver corners and feet. Colonel Sprot, in his audience with the Queen, was accompanied by Captain Gregg, Lieutenant Grant, Sergeant-Major Fasenidge, and Pipe-Major M'Dougal. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, Prince Christian, and others. Her Majesty expressed much gratification with both presents. On the day of the ceremony the guard of the Highlanders was drawn up at the entrance to St. George's chapel, Windsor, Colonel Sprot having command of the troops at the chapel. After the ceremony, the officers of the guard had the honour of being present at the *déjeuner*, the bagpipes and drums of the 91st playing alternately with the band of the Grenadier Guards.

#### FURTHER MOVEMENTS AT ALDERSHOT.

The guard of the 91st returned to Aldershot on the 22nd by the way it came. During its stay at Aldershot it went through the whole routine of field-days, inspections and other duties invariably winning the general approbation of every officer that had the opportunity of

witnessing its training. On the 10th July when the Queen reviewed the troops at Aldershot the 91st marched past by double companies of seventy file, and marched so well that Her Majesty sent a complimentary message to the regiment by the General commanding the brigade. On the 4th August Her Majesty sent her command that the 91st Highlanders should always march past (in quick time) to their pipers. In August, while the festivities consequent on the wedding of the Marquis of Lorne were going on at Inverary, the soldiers' present was sent to the Princess Louise, who, as well as the Marquis, cordially accepted and acknowledged it. On the application of the Duke of Argyll, three pipers of the regiment with the pipe-major attended the rejoicings, and were much admired both for their soldier-like appearance and good playing. In this year an ebony baton mounted in silver and with a silver boar's head was presented to Bandmaster Kelly by the officers of the regiment. On the 3rd August, Lieut.-General J. R. Craufurd, the colonel of the regiment, being in the neighbourhood of the camp, came over to pay the regiment a visit, accompanied by Lord and Lady Churchill. The regiment paraded for his inspection, and General Craufurd, in an order next day, expressed himself extremely gratified by all he had seen of the corps. He had formed his opinion of the corps that had been so long under the command of his father, not alone from what he had seen, but from what he had heard. All spoke alike of their good behaviour and he felt proud of being the colonel of the 91st Highlanders. In September, 1871, the 91st formed part of the force which was called out for field manoeuvres, immediately after the conclusion of which the regiment received orders to proceed to Aberdeen and Fort George.

#### 1872-1876.

On 27th and 30th Sept. 1871, the regiment left Aldershot in two detachments for London, and embarked the same day at Wapping, reaching Aberdeen on the 29th September and 4th October; the second detachment was delayed by stormy weather. The former detachment, headquarters, reached Fort George on the day of its arrival at Aberdeen, but the second detachment of four companies remained at Aberdeen.

Shortly after the marriage of the Princess Louise Her Majesty expressed a desire to confer some distinguishing mark on the 91st to commemorate the event, and desired Lieut.-Col. Sprot to be communicated with as to what the regiment would like. Col. Sprot, after consulting with his oldest officer, suggested the kilt to which Her Majesty readily agreed, but to which the military authorities objected. It was then intimated that the regiment would like to be designated "The Princess Louise Argyllshire Highlanders," and bear on its colours the boar's head with the motto "Ne obliiscaris" (crest and motto of the Argyll family). To this there could be no objection, and the War Office memorandum of April 2nd, 1872, authorized the regiment to indulge its wish, the Princess Louise's coronet and cypher to be also placed on the three corners of the regimental colours.

From the 14th to the 27th June, a company of the regiment, with the Queen's colours, left Aberdeen for Ballater, and formed a guard of honour to Her Majesty the Queen during her stay at Balmoral. A second guard of honour was furnished on the 16th August.

After a stay of about eighteen months at Fort George, the 91st proceeded to Edinburgh in May, 1873. The regiment arrived at Granton on the morning of May 12th, and after landing in the most orderly manner, commenced its march up the hill to the old Castle on the rock. On the route the 91st passed the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders (now its second battalion), who were marching out of the Castle, and were on their way to embark at Granton; each corps shouldered arms to the other, and the pipers struck up a merry greeting. The large crowds of people who had collected along the route to witness the departure of the 93rd, waited to give a hearty welcome to the Princess Louise Highlanders. On the 27th July a party left Edinburgh for Stirling to form part of the 58th Brigade Depot, which also comprised two depot companies of the 72nd Highlanders.

On the 20th January, 1874, Captain, now Major Grant, retired from the regiment after a service of over 30 years. He had joined as a private soldier, for some years he filled the post of Sergeant-Major reserve battalion, and eventually was granted a commission. On the 12th

February at the request of the Royal Scottish Academy of Arts, a sentry was posted at the entrance of the exhibition, the regiment supplied this guard till its close. The members of the Academy in recognition of their service presented the regiment with £10, which was expended in a handsomely engraved bell, which is under the charge of the sentry of the main guard, by whom the hours are struck upon it through the day. On the 20th March a ball was given by the regiment in the assembly rooms and music hall, at which upwards of 700 guests were present. On the 26th and 27th of the month the regimental theatricals took place, and the profits realised were such that the officers presented £50 to the Royal Infirmary and the same sum to the hospital for sick children. In May a guard of honour was given at Holyrood to receive the Lord High Commissioner.

During the winter of 1873-74, the officers of the regiment hired the assembly music hall once weekly, and the band played there in place of the gardens when the weather was too cold to play out of doors. To defray the cost a small charge was made at the doors for admission. This accumulated during the season to £42. This sum, supplemented by contributions by the officers, was expended upon the erection of a drinking fountain at the Castle gate. It was finished only the day previous to the regiment leaving. During the stay of the 91st in Edinburgh they had repeated field days, and were constantly exercised in throwing up trenches, tent pitching, &c.

On the 29th June the regiment, under the command of Col. Sprot, embarked on board the *Tamar*, and sailed the same evening, via the Portland Firth to Belfast, arriving in Carrickfergus Bay 1st July. The regiment disembarked next day, when the headquarters proceeded to Newry, three companies to Armagh, one company to Monaghan, a company being detached at Newtonards for musketry. On the occasion of some regimental sports in October, advantage was taken of the existence of the canal at Newry, and a novelty in the shape of a swimming match was introduced into the programme. A number of prizes were given, there being an unusual number of skilful swimmers in the regiment. On the 16th December the Martini-Henri rifle was received by the regiment.

On the 8th January, 1875, a draft of 68 men left to join the linked battalion, the 72nd Highlanders, in India, some from the brigade depot at Stirling and others from Newry. On the 29th January Lieut.-Col. Sprot was promoted colonel. In March the company at Monaghan, headquarters from Newry, and the detachments at Armagh left their stations for the Curragh camp, arriving on 31st. This year the regiment stood twenty-first on the list of regiments in musketry. The American rifle team having come over to shoot an international match with the Irish team, visited the Curragh camp in June to witness a review, on the conclusion of which they were entertained by the officers of the 91st. Colonel Sprot was appointed in October umpire in chief of the Krieg Spiel at the Curragh.

Eighty-nine men were sent as a draft to the 72nd Highlanders in November. On December 1st Lieutenant Sohank was appointed instructor of musketry and Lieutenant St. Clair appointed adjutant. On 30th December Lieut. Col. J. Kirk took over command of the regiment from Colonel Sprot, who was on 19th January, 1876, appointed Assistant Adjutant General and Assistant Quartermaster-General, and who presented the regiment as a New Year's gift with the old Masonic charter, No. 321, Colonel Sprot being himself a Freemason of considerable standing, and one who had taken many degrees in the craft. This charter was granted in London on the 4th March, 1801, to form and hold a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons at the Cape of Good Hope or elsewhere of the 91st regiment of foot, upon the second and fourth Wednesdays in every month. It was signed—Athol, Grand Master, and L. Leslie, Grand Secretary.

In April, 1876, three companies, under command of Captain Robley, left for Enniskillen, and in May three companies, under Major W. P. Gurney, for Londonderry. Headquarters in June arrived at Enniskillen, and two companies going on to join at Londonderry.

The regiment lost Sergeant-Major John Fassridge in July, a man of the highest character.

New Henry-Martini rifles, with an improved lock, were issued in August, and in the same month a draft of 68 men left to join the 72nd Highlanders.

Readings and entertainments were given by the regiment, who gave contributions to the poor of Enniskillen in the winter of 1876-7, also to the Drummond Institute, Dublin, and the Royal Cambridge Asylum for soldiers' widows. The Presbyterians of Enniskillen entertained their co-religionists in the 91st in the Town Hall, just before the regiment moved, in May, to Belfast. Here its arrival was witnessed by crowds, who gave a hearty welcome. Lieut. Tottenham and H Company occupied the Castle at Carrickfergus. On the visit of H. E. the Lord Lieutenant and the Duchess of Marlborough to the north of Ireland, guards of honour were furnished. At Belfast in August, from the 6th to 10th inst., the men were on duty each evening, the magistrates having called out the military on the occasion of Home Rule processions.

#### 1877-1878.

On 12th October, 1877, the old colours of the regiment, deposited in 1869 at Inverary, were consumed by the fire that destroyed the castle. The Marquis of Lorne wrote to Lieut.-Col. Kirk : "Alas for the old flags ; all he can hope to recover are the metal leaf shaped heads of the staffs, and they are perhaps melted. Besides the colours all the arms used by our people in the campaign of 1745 are gone. The Duke is much touched and pleased by the expression of sympathy you offer on the part of the regiment, and deeply deplores the loss of the flags of which he was so proud." A draft of two sergeants, one drummer, and 90 rank and file left to join the 72nd Highlanders in India.

On the 31st January, 1878, the regiment, with its married women and children, were entertained by the congregation of St. Enoch's Church, Belfast, in the Ulster Hall. The Moderator of the General Assembly was in the chair, and he referred, as did the Mayor and others, in complimentary terms to the conduct of the 91st in the town. In April the order came for Dublin, and there the Royal Barracks were occupied.

In consequence of the very threatening aspect of affairs in Turkey and the aggressive action of Russia, the army and militia reserves were mobilised ; 465 men joined the colours in April and May, of these 90 being from the Highland Borderers, 175 from the Royal Renfrew Militia.

and 200 drawn from all parts of Scotland, In July these men returned to their homes on the more peaceful aspect of affairs. In December 156 men left the regiment to join the 72nd Highlanders, then engaged in the war against the Ameer of Cabul. The regiment embarked at Kingstown on January 2, 1879, arriving at Portsmouth and proceeding to Aldershot on the 6th inst., occupying the permanent Barracks.

#### THE ZULU WAR.

On the 11th February, 1879, news was received of a great disaster having occurred on the 22nd January to our force then operating in Zululand under Lieut. General Lord Chelmsford. At Isandlwana the camp having been surprised the whole force was destroyed. This intelligence caused the Government to resolve on sending to Natal with the least possible delay reinforcements. Of the battalions of infantry, the 91st was selected to form one, and orders were received to prepare to embark in the S.S. Pretoria, one of the South African mail steamers of the Union Company.

Volunteers were received from the following regiments :—2nd bat. 5th, 20 ; 1st bat, 8th, 61 ; 1st bat. 10th, 28 ; 2nd bat. 19th, 7 ; 2nd bat. 20th, 98 ; 2nd bat. 26th, 30 ; 2nd bat. 32nd, 39 ; 2nd bat. 41st, 40 ; 2nd bat. 55th, 15 ; 2nd 84th, 20 ; 108th, 16 ; total, 374. The last party joined only two days before embarkation. On February 18th, on its parade at Aldershot, H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge inspected the 91st Highlanders in field-service order, and afterwards addressed the officers, congratulating them on the compliment which had been paid to the regiment in its having been selected for this service and expressing confidence that they and all ranks would sustain the reputation the regiment had always borne. The regiment was commanded by Major A. C. Bruce, Lieut.-Col. Kirk having been compelled to put himself on the sick-list from a tumour in the right foot, from which he had been suffering for several months previously, and which resulted afterwards in amputation and finally in death.

Colonel Kirk was thus compelled, with deep reluctance, to relinquish, when almost within his grasp, this opportunity to proceed in command of his regiment on active service. In this heavy blow to his prospects as a soldier,

Col. Kirk met with the deepest and most sincere sympathy from all his brother officers and comrades in the regiment.

The S.S. *Pretoria*, Captain Geo. Larmer, sailed on the afternoon of the 19th February from Southampton, carrying Major A C Bruce, Major W P Gurney, Captains G Stevenson, J Rogers, W Mills, G O'Sullivan, J Boulderson, W Prevost, Lieuts H Fallowfield, W Craufurd, D MacDonald, A Tottenham, F Cookson, G Robbins, D Fowler, G Goff, G Collings, H Johnston, 2nd Lieut. T Fraser, 2nd Lieut C Richardson, Lieut and Adjutant J St Clair, Quarter-J Gillies, Paymaster W Caudwell, 43 sergeants, 21 drummers, 832 rank and file.

During the voyage, a most agreeable one, the clothing for 1879, which, with a considerable stock of necessaries, had been put on board, was fitted and issued to the men, and the kits thoroughly inspected and weeded in order that each man might go into the field with a kit in a thoroughly serviceable condition, consisting of one serge coat, two pairs of trowsers, two pairs of boots, three pairs of socks, two towels, and one hold-all.

The new doublets were packed in barrels, and the other surplus articles of kit in the waterproof bags to be left in store at Durban.

On March 12th arrived at Cape Town and went into docks to coal. Lady Frere, the wife of His Excellency the Governor, then absent in the interior, next day visited the ship and saw the men at their dinners, the *Pretoria* sailing at 4 p.m.

About noon, on the 16th March, Durban Roads was reached. The commanding officer and adjutant went on shore and reported themselves to Lord Chelmsford, and received orders to disembark next morning.

With the exception of the 57th Regiment, which had arrived two days previously from Ceylon, the regiment was the first of the reinforcements to reach Natal. On the 17th, disembarkation commenced at 6 a.m.; this was very tedious owing to the heavy swell, and consequent difficulty in getting the men into the tugs alongside, and at the end of the day two companies and a portion of the baggage were still on board. As the various detachments landed from the tugs they marched up to the Camp at Durban, about

two miles off, in a very hot sun. It rained heavily at night, and all next day, when the baggage and remaining two companies came into camp.

An address of welcome was presented to the regiment from the Scotchmen of Natal, the deputation being headed by Mr. Jameson, a merchant in Durban. The 91st was formed up to receive the address, which was read by him. Major Bruce briefly expressed on the part of the officers and men his thanks and acknowledgments to the deputation for the compliment paid to the Regiment.

During the two days they were in the camp at Durban the officers received many acts of kindness and much hospitality from Mr. Jameson, who was also most obliging and useful to the regiment while they were in the field.

Before leaving Durban the Band was broken up, and the men told off to act as hospital bearers and orderlies under the orders of Surgeon-Major Edge, who had accompanied in the *Pretoria*, and been placed in medical charge on arrival at Natal.

The boys (17 in number) were also left in camp there, under Bandmaster Kelly, with a sufficiency of musical instruments for their instruction. Nine pipers and a small corps of drums and fifes accompanied the regiment to the field.

Durban was left on the 19th March for the Tugela river, the boundary between Natal and Zululand (strength, 23 officers and 832 non-commissioned officers and men), the regiment having been told off by Lord Chelmsford to form part of a column, with which he had determined to start as early as practicable for the purpose of relieving the force under Col. Pearson, then shut up in Eshowe (and whose provisions were nearly exhausted), by Zulus variously estimated from 12,000 to 20,000. The Naval Brigade of H.M.S. *Boadicea*, numbering about 250 men, with five officers, under Lieut. Carr, accompanied the battalion on its march to the Tugela.

March 25.—Arrived at Fort Pearson, on the lower Tugela, about 7.30 a.m.; halted for breakfast and to wait for wagons, which were late in coming up. Crossed the river, and encamped on the Zululand side, near the 57th Regiment. Entrenched two sides of the camp.

March 26th.—Manned alarmed posts at 4 a.m. till daylight, in accordance with general standing orders.

March 26th.—The Battalion was inspected by Lord Chelmsford, who made a speech to the men.

March 27.—Orders received for column to proceed in two divisions for relief of Ekowe, 1st Division under Colonel Law, R.A., composed of three companies of the "Buffs" and five companies of the 99th (formed as a battalion). The 91st and Naval Brigade with two rocket tubes and a Gatling gun and one battalion of the Natal Native Contingent (the Naval Brigade was formed of men from the Shah, Tenedos, and Boadicea). 2nd Division under Colonel Pemberton, 60th Rifles, composed of 57th, 3rd 60th Rifles, Naval Brigade, and the battalion of Natal Native Contingent, the whole under the immediate command of Lord Chelmsford. The orders were to proceed without tents and in the lightest possible marching order, men to carry 70 rounds of ammunition, and 30 rounds per man to be carried on pack-mules, two of which (each with 1,500 rounds in canvas waterproof bags) followed immediately in rear of each company.

March 28.—Struck camp and pitched eight tents on ground commanded by Forts Pearson and Tenedos, for baggage and camp equipment, about twenty weakly men having been detached to be left behind as a guard. Bivouacked on site of camp. Very heavy rain all night. Received orders late at night to march at daybreak as advanced guard of the column.

Started at 6 a.m. next day, the 91st forming the advanced guard and the 60th the rear guard. Progress was very slow, there being a long train of wagons between the two divisions, and the ground being soft and heavy from the recent rains. About nine miles were marched, and a halt for the night was made at the Inyoni river, where an entrenched laager was formed.

Next morning, the 80th, the regiment stood to arms at 3:30 a.m. The march was resumed at 8 a.m., in the same order, and the halt for the night was on the south bank of the Amatikulu river, about seven miles from the Inyoni, with another entrenched laager.

On the 31st the march began at 6 a.m. The river was very high, the water being nearly

up to the men's waists, and necessitating the ammunition being carried on their shoulders. So much delay was caused from the difficulty in getting the wagons across, that the column was only able to advance one and a half miles beyond the river, where another entrenched laager was formed as usual.

The Honourable Mr. Drummond, A.D.C. and interpreter to Lord Chelmsford, joined the column, and handed to Major Bruce the following telegram from H.R.H. the Princess Louise, addressed from Canada to Captain Vernon Chater, A.D.C. to the Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada, who was en route to join his regiment in the field, and had just landed at Durban :—"Convey to 91st my regret at not seeing them before their departure; also the interest I take in their welfare, wishing them every success, with God-speed, and a safe return."—PRINCESS LOUISE.

April 1st.—Marched at 9 a.m., and formed rear guard of the column. Enemy sighted for first time, shortly after moving off laagered at Ginginhlovo, about six miles from the Amatikulu River, and about twenty miles from Ekowe, from which our laager was distinctly visible. Shortly after the trenches were completed, severe thunderstorm broke out, with torrents of rain, which half filled them with water.

Wednesday, 2nd April.—Roads too heavy to march, and the laager one foot deep in mud. The Zulus were observed shortly after daybreak on our left flank in considerable numbers coming out of the bush which bordered the Inyezane River, about two miles off, and shortly after six a.m. the camp was attacked on all sides by a force estimated to be about 12,000. A few shells and rockets were fired, and as they came within range they were received on all four sides of the laager with a heavy fire of musketry, from which they suffered severely, but they came on steadily and rapidly under cover of the long grass, firing as they advanced, and skirmishing splendidly, pushing on in spite of the deadly fire of breechloaders and Gatlings, and at some points got to within twenty yards of the trench. Closer than this it was impossible to approach, and when the Zulus had realized that this struggle was one in which the assegai would be useless

they recoiled from the hopeless attack. About 7:30 a.m. they began to waver, the firing being too heavy to admit of their collecting for a rush as they always endeavour to do, and commenced to retire on all sides, pursued by the mounted infantry under Major Barrow and native contingent. In this action, which lasted about an hour and a half, the British loss was 9 killed and 52 wounded; the 91st having lost 1 man killed, Private Marshall, and the following non-commissioned officers and men wounded (2 dangerously), Sergeant D. McIntyre, Privates Stantidge, Richards, Mallie, O'Brien, Gillespie, and Haulon. The Zulus mostly retired in the direction of the Inyezane River and road to Ekowe. In the river many bodies, guns, assegais, and shields were afterwards found, the arms having evidently been thrown away in their flight. Four hundred and eighty bodies were counted dead around the laager, the total loss of the enemy amounted to nearly 1,200. The 91st had 22 officers, 38 sergeants, 22 drummers, 35 corporals, and 706 privates engaged at Ginginhlovo. The adjutant, Lieut. St. Clair, had a very narrow escape, a bullet having struck his helmet in front less than one inch above his head, passing out at the side. The colours were carried by Lieuts. Fraser and Richardson. On the left face of the laager two companies of the 91st (F and H) were posted with the 99th and Buffs, and on the rear face were six companies, A B C D E and G.

2nd April.—The remainder of the day was employed in burying the dead and packing the carts for the march to Ekowe which took place at seven next morning.

3rd April.—The 91st were rear guard to the flying column, composed of the 57th, 3rd battalion of 60th, and 91st (six companies from each battalion), for the relief of Colonel Pearson at Ekowe. A convoy of light two-wheeled carts drawn by mules, with supplies for that garrison accompanied the column. The men were only allowed a blanket each, even the waterproof sheets having to be left behind to reduce the transport. The march was a very trying one, the distance being about twenty miles, the last twelve a continuous ascent, in a hot sun and over very bad roads crossed by numerous streams of considerable depth. The march occupied fifteen hours, with only one halt, and though many of the young soldiers

who filled the ranks were completely exhausted all acquitted themselves most creditably, accepting cheerfully and in a soldierlike spirit, the fatigues and privations to which they felt they were necessarily exposed. On the march the column was preceded by the mounted infantry and volunteers under Major Barrow, and by a number of native scouts organised by Mr. John Dunn—whose knowledge of the country was accurate. At the close of the war he was appointed chief of one of the districts into which the country was divided.

The Battalion reached Ekowe at 11 p.m. and after sending B company (Captain Mills and Lieutenant Cookson), out on picket (which therefore had no rest), bivouacked in rear of the Fort, A and D companies of the 91st remained with the force left behind at Ginginhlovo under Major Walker, 99th regiment to hold the laager there.

April 4.—Remained at Ekowe for rest. Pearson's garrison evacuated the fort, and started for the Lower Tugela. On the 5th, it having been determined by Lord Chelmsford to abandon this station, and everything of value having been removed from the fort, the column started on return march to Ginginhlovo, the 91st being advanced guard, passed through a missionary station that had been burnt, oranges growing in quantities—found a wounded Zulu and took him on for care. Formed laager about five miles from Ginginhlovo. Stood to arms about 3 a.m., F, Captain Prevost's, company, being on outpost duty, on April 6th, on account of false alarm. This day was excessively hot, and the troops suffered much from fatigue, reached old laager at Ginginhlovo (where the smell of the buried Zulus was sickening), but passed it without halting, formed another laager about two miles further on.

April 7.—Lord Chelmsford and staff left for the Tugela, leaving a column consisting of the 57th, 3-60th, and 91st, and Naval Brigade, with Barrow's Mounted Infantry and Volunteers, and two battalions Natal Native Contingent, under Lieut.-Colonel Clarke, 57th Regiment. Shifted camp to a better position about a mile nearer the Amatikulu river, afterwards known as Ginginhlovo Camp. Here an entrenchment of a more permanent kind was formed, with abattis in front. Daily routine as follow:—Trenches were manned at 4 a.m. till about 5.45,

or until it was sufficiently light to see about 1,000 yards to the front. Troops standing with fixed bayonets, and perfect silence being kept. At daylight leave trenches, prepare breakfast, clean arms, company inspections. During forenoon one or two companies were marched to an adjacent stream to bathe. After dinner regiment were marched outside camp for about two hours' drill, or bivouacked outside to admit of the camp being cleaned. Manned trenches again at 7.30 p.m. First post lie down at 7.45. Each company in rear of its alarm post. Lights out at eight. One company on trench duty, standing in the trenches all night, and one company from each battalion on picket, covering the front.

April 15th.—Sergeant McIntyre died of wounds received at Ginginhlovo, at Stanger. On 18th convoy from Tugela brought up men's kits and officers' light baggage. Still without tents, and frequent heavy rains, combined with bad weather, and unhealthiness of climate of the Zulu coast beginning to produce much sickness.

April 23rd.—Second Lieutenants Dickson, Wyllie, and Lane-Fox joined on appointment, bringing with them two sergeants, one corporal, and four privates from the Lower Tugela hospital.

April 25.—Evacuated Ginginhlovo camp and advanced to a new position about four miles off on the Inyezane river, where a fort (Chelmsford) was commenced. The construction of another fort was also commenced about this time on the Amatikulu river, on the line of communication and was completed by the 91st under the direction of Lieut. Sherrard, R.E. This fort was named Fort Crealock, after the Major-General who commanded the division.

May 5.—Sickness rapidly increasing, 150 sick from various corps (including Captain Mills and Lieutenants Tottenham and Goff) despatched with convoy of empty wagons to the Lower Tugela Hospital. Cases chiefly fever and dysentery. The troops at this time were employed on perpetual convoy duty, each convoy being escorted by a battalion of British troops, a battalion of natives, 2 guns R.A., and about 25 mounted scouts. The three regiments took its turn to furnish the escorts, the Major-General had decided that two months supplies

for 6,000 men were required at Fort Chelmsford before the division could advance.

May 10.—Moved into Fort Crealock, the garrison of which was 91st, half company R.E., two guns R.A., and 16 mounted men and a battalion native contingent, the whole under Major Bruce. On the 24th three cheers were given in honour of Her Majesty's birthday.

June 10.—Lieut Cookson joined the mounted infantry and commanded a troop under Major Barrow. He served in pursuit of Cetewayo, traversing a very wooded country infested by wild beasts. On one occasion two horses of the force were killed by lions at night.

On 15th June Regiment relieved by the Buffs moved out of the Fort and led the forward movement of the division across the Inyezane river.

On June 16th Major-General Crealock arrived and on the 19th a draft from the depot under command of Lieut. Wilson, Capt the Hon. Elliott joined the force as staff officer to Major Barrow.

June 20th, 91st, two guns R.A., half troop of mounted infantry, half company R.E. and Barton's battalion of Natal Natives, under Major Bruce moved forward in advance of division and formed laager half way to the Umlatazi River. Next day (21st) advanced to the river, repairing and improving drifts and roads as it went. Main body arriving about 3 p.m. at Napoleon Hill, overlooking the river, where an entrenched camp was formed. June 21st the *London Gazette* contained the promotion of Major A. C. Bruce to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel vice 2nd Colonel Kirk, placed on half pay and appointed to the Intelligence Department.

On June 27th, crossed the river, advancing five miles beyond. Next day moved on to Port Durnford, where it had been ascertained by the naval authorities that a landing could be effected and arrangements were made to land stores from the ships and to form a depot of supplies.

July 2nd.—Sir Garnet Wolseley, who had been appointed to succeed Lord Chelmsford, arrived off Port Durnford in Her Majesty's ship *Shah* and attempted to land, but was unable to do so owing to the heavy surf, and as the weather showed no signs of moderating he returned to Durban in that vessel and came back to Durnford some days afterwards by land, and after

remaining three days with the coast column, he started to join the northern column.

July 5.—Marched about nine miles, starting at dusk, to the Umhlatoozi River, to cover an advance of the cavalry under Barrow, who had been ordered to burn a large military kraal at Umgeni, which was successfully accomplished, and a large number of cattle taken. Bivouacked on the banks of the Umhlatoozi, and while here news was received of the battle of Ulundi, which virtually terminated the war.

July 6.—Returned to Port Durnford another road.

July 24.—Battalion ordered to move again to the Umhlatoozi River, where a post was established to assist in maintaining the line of communications between Fort Durnford, St. Paul's, and Ulundi; 200 Nettleton's native contingent and 26 mounted volunteers also formed part of the garrison.

July 27.—B Company, under Captain Mills, proceeded to Fort Napoleon to maintain communication with Fort Chelmsford; on 28th Quartermaster Gillies left for Durban.

July 31.—E Company, under Capt. Craufurd, was detached about half way to St. Paul's, where another post and depot of supplies was established, for the protection of which Capt. Craufurd built a small fort known as Fort Inverary.

Early in August, A and D companies occupied Fort Durnford. Chiefly to afford occupation for the men, the companies with headquarters built a fort, with flanking defence, in a commanding position overlooking the ford on the Umhlatoozi river, which was very successfully accomplished in about three weeks, and favourably reported on by Lieut.-Col. Hale, R.E., commanding that section of the lines of communication, at whose suggestion it was designated Fort Argyll in General Orders. The work was carried out chiefly under the direction of Lieut. Robbins.

August 20.—Parties were being sent out to scour the country in pursuit of the Zulu king, who was a fugitive. G company, under Major Gurney, moved to Empangeni to form part of a chain to prevent his escape to the Ungoya forest, which it was thought probable he would attempt.

A party of mounted men, under Capt. Yeatman Biggs, R.A., was ordered from Durnford to Fort Argyll to proceed in the direction of St.

Lucia Bay to join in the pursuit. Captain O'Sullivan and Lieuts. MacDonald and Goff accompanied this party, and were out about fourteen days, and returned by way of Ulundi, where they were when the king was brought in a prisoner.

On September 4, Cetywayo, under a strong escort, commanded by Captain Poole, R.A., was brought to Fort Argyll, en route to embark at Port Durnford for Cape Town.

Lieut.-Colonel Bruce and Acting Adjutant D. Fowler, accompanied the escort to Port Durnford, where "A" company 91st Highlanders lined the beach as a guard while the embarkation took place. On September 7th "C" and "F" companies under Major Gurney reinforced the detachments at this place.

September 13th.—Received orders to proceed to Durban, where Head-quarters and four companies were to be stationed. Three companies to go to Mauritius, one to St. Helena; Captain Craufurd's company rejoins Head-quarters next day. 14th,—Head-quarters left Fort Argyll en route to the Lower Tugela, arriving and encamping on the south side on the 17th. This day 91st passed the 90th Light Infantry, also en route to Durban from the upper column. The next day A B C D E companies joined Head-quarters.

September 22nd.—Arrived at Verulam, the terminus of the Durban railway. Orders being received to remain in camp there till the S.S. City of Venice was ready to embark Head-quarters for Cape Town. "F" "G" "H" companies detailed for the Mauritius detachment under the command of Major W. P. Gurney, and B company for St. Helena by first opportunity after arrival of regiment at Cape Town.

#### THE MAURITIUS DETACHMENT.

The Mauritius detachment moved to standing camp at Pinetown, near Durban, embarked on board H.M.S. Crocodile 8th October, 1879 (which had 88th and 17th Lancers on board for India), arrived at Port Louis 15th October, 1879.

In January, 1880, headquarters and two companies were stationed at Mahebourg, one company remaining at Port Louis.

On the death of Major W. P. Gurney on 27th January, Captain MacDonald assumed com-

mand. Major Gurney was buried with full military honours at Beau Bassin, the whole detachment attending. His death resulted from fever contracted in the field during the Zulu campaign.

In February the Mahebourg detachment returned to Port Louis. The following officers arrived from England this year: Lieutenant Collings, Lieutenant Johnston and Major Robley, and Lieutenants Robbins and Wilson left.

Mauritius, which is an independent command, would be an important position if ever the Suez Canal was blocked, it being a key to the Indian ocean. This island lays close to French Bourbon, but our Creoles are loyal and like our rule. The greater number of inhabitants are coloured, a mixed race, of which imported Indian coolies for the sugar plantations are the most numerous.

The influx of these people, and their imported diseases, and the de-foresting the island for wood, changed Mauritius from healthy to unhealthy. In 1867-8 the great outbreak of fever in these years caused severe losses amongst the troops and decimated the island. This fever—called "Mauritius fever"—will attack everyone who lives in its zone, the low-lying country and shore. In this unhealthy zone are unfortunately situated the barracks for the troops viz., Fort George for the artillery; Line Barracks and Mahebourg for the infantry. On the more healthy hills there is at Curepipe a station on the Government railway across the island; buts for 80 or 90 men, convalescents, and men ordered up by medical authority for change of air.

In July 1880, the detachment competed at the meeting of the Mauritius Rifle Association, winning most of the prizes open to the forces. 9th December, 1880, the men subscribed to the Irish Famine Fund, and this was acknowledged with thanks by the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

From December 1880, to May 1881 (even after a batch of invalids had been sent away), the detachment was simply a detachment of sick passing through hospital and sanitarium, till its relief by the 58th Regiment at Port Louis in May.

#### THE 91ST AT CAPE TOWN.

On September 30th, the regiment embarked on the S.S. City of Venice, in the Durban

Roads, 16 officers, 80 sergeants, 18 drummers, and 540 rank and file; arrived in Table Bay on the 5th of October; disembarked next day, and occupied the barracks, B and D Companies proceeding by rail to Wynberg. A detachment of the 88th Regiment was in garrison till relieved. The regiment was inspected by Col. Hassard, C.B., R.E., commandant of the Western District.

Lient.-Col. Bruce was appointed a "Companion of the Bath" in the *London Gazette*, 27th of November, 1879. B Company proceeded to St. Helena, on the 6th of January, 1880, arriving on the 13th of January, 1880.

On the 20th February, 1880, Colour-Sergt. J. Denholm was appointed Sergeant-Major to the 91st Highlanders.

On the 12th of July the ex-Empress Eugenie landed at St. Helena to visit the tomb of Napoleon at Longwood, whilst on her way out to see the scene of her son's career in South Africa. She was received at the pier by detachments of troops in garrison, including Captain Mills' Company 91st, and re-embarked with the same honours.

It has been remarked as a curious fact that on four several occasions the 91st Highlanders, or a portion of it, has been associated with events in the history of the Napoleon family. In 1815, after Waterloo, the regiment was in the pursuit of the first Napoleon to Paris. In 1840 three companies at St. Helena were present at the disinterment of the remains of the great Napoleon. On June 9, 1879, an officer, the band, and a small detachment, at Durban, were present at the funeral of the Prince Imperial; and on the 12th of July, 1880, again at St. Helena, a company of the regiment received, as a guard of honour, the ex-Empress Eugenie.

The regiment was inspected by Lieutenant-General the Hon. Leicester-Smyth, C.B., on his assuming the command of H.M.'s troops in the Cape Colony.

Captain Alan Cameron joined the 91st from the 71st, and was ordered to Mauritius in December. The Transvaal war breaking out he was detained *en route* at Durban and ordered to Maritzburg, and was employed on the district staff till the termination of the war.

Captain Craufurd and Lieutenant Goff were ordered from Cape Town on the 29th of De-

ember, 1880, with a detachment of 100 picked men as convoy to the *Boadicea* guns ; but this move was countermanded on the 22nd of December. A draft of 66 non-commissioned officers and men joined, under Lieut. Goff. This officer was sent to Natal in February, 1881, in charge of 300 horses and mules, and was employed at Maritzburg for a time, when he returned to Cape Town.

On the 1st January, 1881, Lieut. A. Wilson was appointed Adjutant.

On the 9th March medals for the Zulu war were presented to the regiment by the General, who addressed the battalion as follows :—“ I am grateful to Colonel Bruce for the pleasure he has given me in asking me to present these medals, honourable emblems of hardship undergone, valour displayed and victory won, and I wish the recipients, one and all, many happy years to wear them. I am the more pleased at being here to-day, for a long time ago, how long I hardly like to say, I had the honour of campaigning in this country with the 91st Regiment, and then had many opportunities of witnessing and appreciating their gallant deeds, and as the 91st fought in those days of old, and as those to whom I have now given these medals fought in more recent time—so I feel sure will the 91st Highlanders of the present day, should they be called upon, stubbornly uphold the great tradition of their regiment, and do their duty to their Queen and country.”

Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Roberts, G.C.B., on his way out to the Transvaal, touched at St. Helena, and presented the South African medal to the officers and men of the detachment there personally, expressing great admiration of their *physique* and smart turn-out.

Major-General Murray presented Captain MacDonald, Lieutenants Collings, Johnston and Fraser, and non-commissioned officers and men of F, G, H companies at Port Louis, Mauritius, on the 22nd April, with their medals. This detachment had occupied Mahebourg, and in turn the Sanatorium at Curepipe. This detachment (F, G, H) of three companies rejoined headquarters, under Major Robley, arriving on May 26th in the *Orientes* after nine days' passage. All ranks were in a very sickly condition, and the non-commissioned officers and men had to be kept off duty for one month

after arrival. This ship had to land men and baggage in her own boats, the day being so tempestuous in Table Bay that no lighters would come off from the shore.

June 1st.—General Order No. 57 of this date directs the words “South Africa” to be henceforth borne on the Regimental colour.

July 1st.—In a new scheme for the re-organization of the army, the regiment was incorporated with the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders into the 91st territorial regiment (Princess Louise's Sutherland and Argyll Highlanders), the 91st and 93rd forming first and second battalion respectively.

On 29th July the regiment was again inspected.

September 27.—A company, under Captain A Cameron, embarked for St. Helena, to relieve B company, which rejoined headquarters on Oct. 21. The regiment received a draft of 140 non-commissioned officers and men on Nov. 1, under Captain Tottenham, and again on Jan. 23, 1882, a draft of 20 non-commissioned officers and men from the depot, under Major Fawcett.

In 1882 Major Chater rejoined, on completion of staff appointment as A.D.C. to the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General of Canada.

On the 10th of May the kilt was taken into wear as uniform of regiment. The officers gave a ball in the Exchange, which was honoured by H.E. Sir Hercules and Lady Robinson, and other guests, including the officers of the Flying Squadron.

July 1st.—The regiment was now designated the 1st battalion Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and the following is a list of officers at this date when it received its present designation :—Lieut-Colonel A C Bruce, CB, Lieut-Colonel H G Robley, Majors J H Fawcett, S N Stevenson, W S Mills, W G Gard, V Chater, Captains G L O'Sullivan, W Prevost, H G Fallowfield, W K H Craufurd, D J Macdonald, A Cameron, J L St Clair, A E Tottenham, Lieuts F Cookson, G B Robbins, W H Middlemass, D G Fowler (Instructor of Musketry). G L Goff, G D Collings, H F C Johnston, T Fraser, C Richardson, D J Dickson, F Wyllie, A Wilson (Adjutant), S Patterson, A E J Cavendish, H D McIntyre, P L McKie, T A Scott, A Ayton, H Vallancey, Quartermaster Gillies, and Paymaster W D Gaudwell, APD.

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6th July.—For precaution against an epidemic of small-pox raging in town the regiment was moved together with a battery of Royal Artillery in garrison to Wynberg and placed under canvas. It was joined in August by a draft of 36 non-commissioned officers and men from the depot under Capt. Craufurd. In September, on the 6th, the annual games of the regiment were held and attended by very many people. This year there was a grand sight from the tents at night—the very large and bright comet that appeared very suddenly. In November, on the 2nd and 3rd, the regiment was inspected by Lieut.-General the Hon. L. Smyth, C.B., in camp and on Wynberg Flats for manoeuvring, Lieut.-Colonel Bruce receiving and publishing in orders the expression of entire satisfaction of the General.

On the 8th November Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Bruce, C.B., proceeded home on leave, and command of the regiment devolved on Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Robley. In December the amateurs of the regiment, with some friends, gave two nights' entertainments at Wynberg Hall, in aid of the small-pox relief fund. A sum of £29 was handed over for its purposes.

The epidemic did not abate until December, having in its time caused hundreds of deaths amongst the inhabitants—chiefly Malays and coloured people; but owing to the precautions taken by the military authorities, and the care of the men, whose behaviour was very good, no case occurred in camp. Two slight cases happened in the small part of the battalion left in Cape Town, viz., eldest child of Bandmaster Kelly, in September, and Private Carr, in October.

The regiment had to deplore the death of Major Fawcett, on the 30th December, which took place at Sea Point. The funeral at Claremont on 16th instant, with all military honours, was attended by all officers in garrison, officers of the volunteers, and leading residents.

The regiment returned from its tents to Cape Town on the 16th of February, 1883. Before leaving camp the following address was forwarded to the commanding officer:—"The Wynberg Village Board of Management, representing the inhabitants of Wynberg, hearing

that your gallant regiment is returning to their quarters in Cape Town after having been encamped at Wynberg for the last seven months, cannot allow this opportunity to pass without conveying to you their regret at your departure from amongst us, and compliments you on the extreme good conduct of the troops under your command, which reflects great credit on the discipline enforced by those over them. While regretting your departure, we wish the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders success and prosperity wherever in future they may be located, and the Board has great pleasure in recording the above in their minutes.—We have, &c., (signed), W. FARMER, Chairman."

To this complimentary letter, which was read on parade—an honourable memento of its stay—a suitable acknowledgment was returned, together with sincere wishes of the regiment for the continued prosperity of Wynberg.

Early this year the regiment had to deplore the loss of two officers at home on sick leave. Captain Caudwell who had served many years in the regiment and afterwards as its paymaster and Lieutenant Dickson.

In many friendly rifle matches, as the papers will show, the regiment held its own with the colonial marksmen and volunteers in 1880 and 1881. Colour-Sergeant Wark and Captain St. Clair winning the medal of the South African Wimbledon.

During the stay of the regiment at the Cape the Cape Hunt was revived and hunting on the Flats in the winter months gave good sport.

On the 24th May, the Queen's Birthday, the 91st was brigaded with the Cape Town Volunteers of all arms, and a body of men from the Boadicea.

On the 27th June a guard of honour from the regiment attended the opening of the sixth session of the sixth Parliament of the Cape Colony by His Excellency Lieut.-General Smyth, C.B.

The History of the 91st has now been brought down to the present year when orders were received for Ceylon.

## ADDENDA.

### EXPEDITION TO SALDANAH BAY.

General Craig, in his despatch of 19th August, 1796, specially mentions the intelligence and action with which Lieut. McNab, 98th, and about 20 mounted men performed the service of watching the enemy and preventing any communication with them from the land from the first moment of the fleet entering the bay.

The battalion companies of 95th and 98th kept Cape Town.

### RECORDS OF THE 2ND BATTALION.

On the 1st March, 1805, the 2nd battalion was stationed at Perth. It discontinued the Highland dress from 7th April, 1809. In the year 1811 it was stationed in Canterbury, and in 1813 at Ayr. In September, 1814, it arrived at Deal from Ostend, and proceeded to Canterbury. In October, the same year, it embarked at Gravesend for Ayr. The 2nd battalion was reduced at Perth on the 25th December, 1815.

### THE RETREAT FROM SALAMANCA.

On the 23rd December, notice being given of Napoleon's march, the retreat began, and the Esla river was crossed on the 25th. Moore with the reserve and light brigade followed the columns to Valderas. The Commander-in-Chief approached the bridge of Castro Gonzalo early on 26th, French cavalry infesting the flank and even carrying off baggage. On the 27th the bridge was demolished by General Craufurd, and the troops who had kept the enemy at bay were withdrawn. On the 28th the reserve was at Benevente, which place was occupied by the French on the 30th. On 31st December, 1808, the English army was still in part at Astorga. Napoleon entered Astorga on 1st January, 1809, with 70,000 infantry, 10,000 cavalry, and 200 guns, having in 10 days, in depth of winter, crossed the Carpantino Mountains and traversed 200 miles. This stupendous march was rendered fruitless by our own quickness. Re-called to France, he fixed upon Soult to continue the pursuit with 60,000 men and 91 guns—at this time the reserve was at Cambarros, six miles from Astorga,—then marched at night to Bembibre and out next morning. French horse riding up close, it was forced to halt and check their audacity—a position was taken up at Calcabelllos by the reserve, who then reached Herrevas, on the 4th where Moore received the first report of the Engineers about the harbours, abandoning the idea of Vigo, the ships being ordered to Corunna. The reserve, then by a forced march of 36 miles, gained 12 hours start of the enemy at Nogales, next Constantino, with the French close upon the rear.

## E R R A T A.

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Page 7, in "Records of Second Battalion," read "Embarked for Germany in July, 1813, under command of Major Gibbs, and sailing to Stralsund, under Brigadier-General Gore, returned thence and sailed 7th December from Yarmouth, and joined the army in Holland.

Page 8, line 14, for "15th June, 1807," read "15th June, 1808."

Page 8, line 52, for "Cindad Rodigo," read "Ciudad Rodrigo;" line 84, for "Sugo," read "Lugo;" and line 86, for "Bretanzos," read "Betanzos."

Page 10, line 12, for "and on the 2nd," read "and on the 22nd."

Page 11, line 43, for "Capt. William Dotglas," read "Colonel William Douglas."

Page 12, line 10 (2nd column), for "Colin Campbell," read "Colin McDougal."

Page 14, line 28, for "the Company Smacks," read "one Company Smacks."

Page 15, line 11 (2nd column), for "Private Thomson," read "Private Johnston."

Page 18, line 29, for "August, 1843," read "August, 1842."

Page 22, line 18, for "23rd April," read "29th April."

Page 25, line 13 (2nd column), for "February, 1842," read "February, 1843."

Page 31, line 50, for "21st of the month, read "21st August."

Page 36, in "the loss of the Birkenhead," read latter part of first paragraph as follows:—  
"Furnished one of the most glorious examples on record of the triumph of military discipline over the love of dear life itself."

Page 43, line 10, for "Capt. Cochrane, three officers," read "three officers, Major Gordon, Capt. Cochrane, and Lieut. Bruce."

































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